

La Grange

https://www.regionalhousingsolutions.org/municipality/la-grange

Submarkets (What is a submarket?)

60% of La Grange is in Submarket 6.

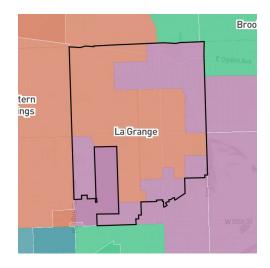
High cost suburban housing stock, low density, high income, aging

40% of La Grange is in Submarket 5.

Suburban 1960-79 housing stock, moderate but declining incomes, lower cost stock

Areas with a similar combination of these submarkets:

- Arlington Heights Barrington Hills Beverly Buffalo Grove Deer Park Edison Park Flossmoor Glenview
- Hawthorn Woods Inverness Lincolnshire Lincolnwood Lisle Long Grove Mount Prospect Naperville
- North Barrington Palatine Riverwoods Westmont Wheaton Woodridge



Want to find housing data for your community? Download U.S. Census housing data and use the Homes for a Changing Region data guide to analyze it.

Issues + strategies

Most communities have multiple submarkets within their boundaries. The issues facing each submarket as well as strategies tailored to address them are outlined below.

	Submarkets with primary focus	
Issue	5	6
Attracting investment	0	

	Submarkets with primary focus	
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Submarket 5

<u>Communities will need to develop creative strategies to attract additional investment and development.</u> Incentivizing infill can be difficult in mostly built-out areas. Many financial institutions do not provide mortgage products for homes at lower price points, limiting the ability to attract new families into some neighborhoods. Rehab may be needed in some areas, but homeowners may not be able to tap into equity loans because of poor market conditions. High property tax rates in some communities prohibit investment and limit affordability.

Strategies

Approach to rehabilitation

Municipal rehab programs can help certain residents address issues of deferred property maintenance.

<u>Municipal rehab programs can help certain residents address issues of deferred property maintenance.</u> Municipalities in Cluster 5 may consider developing rehab grant or loan programs for certain incomequalified homeowners. Many municipalities around the region have developed these programs, some with the support of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding (Oak Park, Evanston) and others through their own municipal sources (East Dundee). Neighborhood Lending Services, Inc. (NLS) offers fixed rate home improvement loans in certain areas of the region. Municipalities in these areas should assist NHS with marketing to residents. Municipalities may also want to consider partnering with local banks to explore the development of a rehab financing product for their residents. Read more about the many different models of rehabilitation programs in the region.

Land banking

Land banks can be used as a strategic tool to acquire problem vacant properties and convert them into assets.

Land banks can be used as a strategic tool to acquire problem vacant properties and convert them into assets. Land banks are governmental entities or nonprofit corporations that focus on the conversion of vacant, abandoned and tax delinquent properties into productive use and have proved to be a useful tool to help reinvent and revitalize neighborhoods. Most vacant and abandoned properties have many legal and financial barriers, such as years of back taxes and clouded title that make it difficult to attract investors. Land banks have the ability to hold land tax-free and clear title and/or extinguish back taxes, which can be essential when trying to attract buyers and investment. Land banks can work in partnership with municipalities to advance community-based goals. There are two successful examples of land banks in Illinois, in both the south suburbs and Cook County, and other areas of the region struggling with issues of vacancy and blight might consider the use of land banking as a tool in their community. The Center for Community Progress is a good starting point to learning about land banking. Learn more about strategies to deal with vacant property.

Placemaking and marketing strategies

Communities should develop strategies to create greater neighborhood identity in order to encourage additional private sector investment.

<u>Communities should develop strategies to create greater neighborhood identity in order to encourage</u> <u>additional private sector investment.</u> Municipalities can make a concerted effort to enhance neighborhood character in Submarket 5 through strategic public investments such as neighborhood branding/signage, streetlights, sidewalks, etc. Public sector investment will likely signal to the private market a commitment to an area and make it more attractive for additional resources. Learn about

	Submarkets with primary focus	
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placemaking strategies.		
Review regulations affectin	g real estate development	
To better compete for private market development regulations.	real estate investments, communities can p	preemptively inventory and update
<u>To better compete for private ma</u>	<u>rket real estate investments, communit</u>	<u>ties can preemptively inventory and</u>
update development regulations	Development regulations protect co	ommunity health, character, and
safety, but can also sometimes	be outdated or create unintended bar	rriers to private investment. Some
regulations are especially oner	ous and limit developer interest in inv	vestment, while others prohibit
forms of development the com	munity may wish to allow. For instanc	ce, density limitations may prohibit
condo buildings in communitie	s' historic downtowns. Large minimu	Im lot sizes may prevent the
development of starter homes	or housing for older community resid	lents. Similarly, point-of-sale
requirements may excessively	extend home sale transaction timeline	es. Communities should audit and
potentially refresh existing reg	ulations to ensure that they are not cr	reating unintended or unnecessary
barriers to development. Assist	ance may be available through the Ur	rban Land Institute or local
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-	evaluate perceptions among private a	

Code issues

Submarket 5

<u>Finding a balance between too aggressive and too lenient code enforcement can be difficult</u>. In some parts of Submarket 5, where the market is weaker, communities struggle to find the right balance in addressing code issues. Too aggressive enforcement can lead to vacancy and reduced neighborhood stability because building owners cannot afford to make all the repairs. Burdensome point of sale requirements may deter new investment in the community, and challenges with staff capacity can often result in long waiting periods to complete required inspections. On the other hand, too lenient enforcement can lead to deteriorating property conditions and households living in unsafe or unsanitary homes. The results of either approach compound over time and can serve as a deterrent to future market-driven rehabilitation.

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Strategies

High priority property maintenance liens

Municipalities should utilize priority liens to recover costs incurred for securing and maintaining abandoned residential property.

<u>Municipalities should utilize priority liens to recover costs incurred for securing and maintaining</u> <u>abandoned residential property</u>. Illinois law allows for priority liens for securing and maintaining abandoned residential property. The law applies to any type of permanent dwelling unit that has been unoccupied for at least 90 days and for which the municipality attempted to contact the owner(s) or the owner's agent(s) but was unable to reach anyone. It covers the removal of weeds, trees, bushes, grass, garbage, debris, or graffiti, and securing or enclosing the property. Liens obtained under this law are superior to all other liens, except taxes. Under this law, municipalities recover their expenses after taxes are paid but before the mortgage is recovered. Thus, municipalities will recover even when the

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value of the property is less than the value of the mortgage. If municipalities are maintaining vacant property in their community, they should be sure to go through the necessary steps to file a high priority lien on the property. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest's (BPI) publication on Vacant Building Ordinances provides detailed information and step-by-step guidance on this process. Learn more about strategies to deal with vacant property.

Rental unit monitoring and regulation

Effective municipal regulation, coupled with pro-active strategies and incentives, can improve rental housing quality and reduce problems.

Effective municipal regulation, coupled with pro-active strategies and incentives, can improve rental housing quality and reduce problems. With the number of rental properties in this Submarket, municipalities need to review the structure of their rental unit monitoring and regulation efforts to make sure that they are maximizing authority under state law while effectively maintaining the quality of the local rental stock. Municipalities may want to consider implementing a performance-based rental regulation ordinance such as the one in place in the Village of Addison. Municipalities may also want to point owners of multifamily rental properties to the abundance of resources at the Community Investment Corporation (CIC) for financing, energy efficiency, and property management training. Learn about best practice rental regulation strategies.

Strategic code enforcement on vacant properties

Code enforcement departments should create targeted intervention strategies based on certain property characteristics. <u>Code enforcement departments should create targeted intervention strategies based on certain property</u> <u>characteristics</u>. Maintenance of vacant and abandoned property is important in order to not deter additional investment in a neighborhood. Some municipalities have reported that boarding vacant properties actually discourages neighborhood investment and the best strategy is to make a property appear occupied. Code enforcement departments should maintain vacant property to the best of their ability and issue priority property maintenance liens as necessary. Even sending a notice to a property owner that a priority lien will be issued may encourage an owner to pay past fines or start taking an interest in the property. However, it is important for code enforcement departments to also make a plan when it is clear that the owner of a property is no longer being responsive. Outlining a strategy to identify properties that may need more aggressive intervention is important. At a certain point when the owner is no longer responding it may be more cost efficient in the long run to intervene with a more aggressive strategy. Communities must be willing to utilize the full arsenal of enforcement tools, including demolition or declaration of abandonment, if necessary. Learn more about strategies to deal with vacant property.

Utilize demolition, fast-track, and abandonment authority

More aggressive strategies may be needed when owners become unresponsive.

<u>More aggressive strategies may be needed when owners become unresponsive.</u> When it is clear an owner of a vacant property is no longer being responsive, municipalities should consider more aggressive strategies. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and BPI's publication on Vacant Building Ordinances provides detailed information and step-by-step guidance on abandonment, fast track demolition, and declaration of abandonment. Some south suburban municipalities have used their abandonment authority to take control of problem properties and then partner with the South Suburban Land Bank to transfer ownership of these properties to responsible owners. The Village of Lansing has been using

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abandonment petitions to gain control of vacant properties, reduce strain on municipal resources, and attract investment. Learn more about strategies to deal with vacant properties.			
Community resistance			

Submarket 6

<u>Community resistance to change often stymies new housing options.</u> Local opposition to new housing options beyond the traditional large single-family home is strong. Submarket 6 communities and can make it difficult to attract a diversity of housing options to the area. A few mentioned the value of strong political leadership in setting the tone for a desire of balanced housing types and acceptance of people from across the income spectrum.

Strategies

Community education

Targeted efforts to build support for diversity of housing stock and people can help address community resistance. <u>Targeted efforts to build support for diversity of housing stock and people can help address community</u> <u>resistance</u>. Many groups, including elected officials, government staff, non-profits, and citizens, have explored ways to build community support for new housing types and greater local diversity. Utilizing these models in submarket 6 can help address community resistance issues. Read more about the many different best practices.

Encourage partnerships with place-based CDCs

Developers that propose more dense housing options or affordable housing may be more likely to receive support if they can partner with a nonprofit community development corporation (CDC).

Developers that propose more dense housing options or affordable housing may be more likely to receive support if they can partner with a nonprofit community development corporation (CDC). CDCs are more likely to have a long-standing and trusted relationship with the local municipality. Elected officials and CDCs should consider meeting on a regular basis to discuss how they can work collaboratively to address local housing challenges and further develop a strong relationship and level of trust. Some areas of the region may lack a strong CDC network. Municipalities in these areas may want to evaluate if they should encourage the development of a local nonprofit partner that can help meet local housing goals. When new proposals are developed, it will be helpful to reference the messaging guide developed through the Housing Illinois campaign. Learn more about community acceptance strategies.

Establish a housing commission

Having a local body dedicated to housing issues helps a community craft policies that specifically respond to area housing needs.

<u>Having a local body dedicated to housing issues helps a community craft policies that specifically respond to</u> <u>area housing needs.</u> The Housing Commission can spend time better understanding the community's housing challenges and vetting potential solutions before they are brought to a Village Board. Both Highland Park and Lake Forest are examples of communities that have utilized housing commissions.

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Economic development implications		•

Submarket 6

<u>The lack of housing options and low density in Submarket 6 may limit economic development opportunities.</u> Municipalities goals' around increasing retail options and fostering a vibrant business community in downtown areas may be limited by the lack of density in the submarket. Economic development may be further limited when area employers find it hard to attract and retain workers who demand different housing options beyond the traditional large, single-family home.

Strategies

Value of housing planning

Housing planning can be used as a tool to address or prevent a serious mismatch between housing supply and demand for people at every stage of the life cycle.

Housing planning can be used as a tool to address or prevent a serious mismatch between housing supply and demand for people at every stage of the life cycle. In the midst of a strong market, it can be hard to find space to step back and think about overarching issues. Yet, communities that undertake local housing planning, such as that done through Homes for a Changing Region, benefit from a clear vision of the types of housing needed by the community, and can be less reactive to new proposals.

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Growing senior population

Submarket 6

<u>Older adults will demand new housing options and readily available access to transportation and services.</u> Submarket 6 communities will need to think creatively about how to address the needs of a growing senior population given that this area has the highest increase in residents over the age of 60. The lack of housing stock diversity may pose problems for seniors who wish to downsize and stay in the community. Communities will also need to consider how to address the needs of seniors who can no longer drive and will need access to new transportation options. Seniors are more likely to desire walkable neighborhoods that provide easy access to amenities and services.

Strategies

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)

ADUs may be ideal for seniors who want to downsize and be close to family members, or have caregivers live on the property.

<u>ADUs may be ideal for seniors who want to downsize and be close to family members, or have caregivers live</u> <u>on the property.</u> ADUs are independent housing units created within single-family homes or on their lots. These units can be a valuable addition to a community's housing stock, particularly in an area that has limited opportunities for infill. ADUs have the potential to assist older homeowners in maintaining their independence by providing additional income to offset property taxes and the costs of home maintenance and repair. Communities considering ADUs can reference the Atlanta Regional Commission's model ordinance language. Partners for Livable Communities' A *Blueprint for Action* also

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provides specific strategies for creating a succ housing ordinances, as well universal design a		
strategies.	nu visitability. Learn more about	senior nousing
Age-friendly neighborhoods		
Age-friendly neighborhoods are walkable, offer housing amenities.	g and transportation choices, as well as	access to basic needs and
Age-friendly neighborhoods are walkable, offer h	ousing and transportation choices	s as well as access to
basic needs and amenities. CMAP's Aging in Plac	0 1	
that municipalities should focus on creating a		-
mixed use and allow a diversity of residential of		=
multigenerational homes, cohousing, shared h	ousing, and senior congregate h	ousing. Communities
should also accommodate diverse living arran	gements, including: "Families of	choice" (groups of
individuals who are not biologically related bu	t live together and share a kitche	en) and allow child and
elder care in residential settings by allowing o	-	-
Association of Realtors also has a useful webpa	0	ng Resources for local
municipalities. Learn more about age-friendly	community strategies.	
Home modifications and maintenance		
Implementing programs to help seniors with minor ho age in place.	me repairs and safety modifications ca	n help residents that want to
Implementing programs to help seniors with min	or home repairs and safety modifi	<u>cations can help residents</u>
that want to age in place. Home modifications a		
in their homes. They can also be an effective w		-
affordability. There are a variety of assistance		=
outlined in Partners for Livable Communities'		-
such as those in the Northwest suburbs operation		eniors with small home
repairs. Learn more about senior housing stra	tegies.	
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eed for more diverse housing options		

Attracting new population segments and serving the needs of existing residents may prove challenging given the limited housing stock diversity in the submarket. High housing values and incomes in Submarket 6 have resulted in stability in the housing market. However, municipalities in this Submarket may need to consider how to accommodate changing demand for housing options when trying to attract new segments of the population including young families and millennials, seniors who want to stay in the community, and local employers who want their employees to live near work. Municipalities will need to consider how to accommodate demand for a variety of housing options from these population groups, including smaller single-family homes, more compact development and multifamily housing. Interviewees also expressed concerns about Submarket 6 communities' ability to accommodate the needs of segments of the local workforce that may be housing cost burdened. Local opposition to new housing options, as well as more attainable housing from a cost perspective, is often

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strong and will present challenges to municipal officials. In addition, competition for, and cost of, land often make development of new housing options all the more challenging in Submarket 6.

Strategies

Affordability through reduced parking

Reducing parking requirements can help to keep housing costs attainable.

<u>Reducing parking requirements can help to keep housing costs attainable.</u> In residential developments, higher sales prices or rents must support every additional parking space required by a municipality. The more parking required, the more expensive the development. If communities in submarket 6 are considering building new multifamily housing at affordable prices, reducing or eliminating parking requirements can help. In Chicago, the Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance (TOD) reduces or eliminates parking requirements near transit while providing density bonuses for developers who take advantage of the provisions. Many believe that this has helped amplify the rental development boom in strong markets like Logan Square and the West Loop, opening up previously undevelopable parcels for action. In Libertyville, developers can cash-out their parking requirements, paying the village a fee in lieu of parking not provided on-site.

Affordable housing trust fund

An affordable housing trust fund can help to increase the production or preservation of affordable units within a community.

An affordable housing trust fund can help to increase the production or preservation of affordable units within a community. Municipal governments can establish dedicated sources of funding for affordable housing construction, acquisition and/or preservation, such as the fund created in Highland Park.

Demolition tax

Revenue raised from a demolition tax can be used to create a fund for the creation, preservation, maintenance and improvement of affordable housing within a municipality.

<u>Revenue raised from a demolition tax can be used to create a fund for the creation, preservation,</u> <u>maintenance and improvement of affordable housing within a municipality.</u> In strong market areas experiencing a loss of affordability or starter homes, a demolition tax can help to create a dedicated source of revenue to fund affordable housing initiatives within a municipality. Evanston, Highland Park, and Lake Forest all have implemented a demolition tax policy.

Establish a housing commission

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<u>Having a local body dedicated to housing issues helps a community craft policies that specifically respond to</u> <u>area housing needs.</u> The Housing Commission can spend time better understanding the community's housing challenges and vetting potential solutions before they are brought to a Village Board. Both Highland Park and Lake Forest are examples of communities that have utilized housing commissions.

Inclusionary zoning

Linking the production of market-rate housing and affordable housing can help address the issue of housing cost burden. Linking the production of market-rate housing and affordable housing can help address the issue of housing cost burden. Inclusionary zoning efforts naturally work well in strong markets. These policies either

	Submarkets with primary focus	
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require or encourage new residential developments affordable to residents at target income ranges. Ma	1 0	e
inclusionary zoning ordinances, including Evanstor		

Land trusts

Land trusts can provide affordable housing in perpetuity by owning land and leasing it to those who live in houses built on that land.

Land trusts can provide affordable housing in perpetuity by owning land and leasing it to those who live in houses built on that land. Land trusts, like those operating in Chicago and the North Shore, are often an effective tool in helping preserve currently affordable units due to a land trust's unique ownership structure. When a land trust sells a unit to an owner, they only sell the improvements (i.e. the home), but not the land underneath.

Preservation and expansion of affordable housing

Preserving housing units that are already affordable is especially important in strong markets.

<u>Preserving housing units that are already affordable is especially important in strong markets.</u> Any existing affordable housing already in Submarket 6 should be prioritized for preservation. Submarket 6 communities should explore strategies to ensure existing units remain in the long-term, in order to preserve residents' access to opportunities such as good schools and jobs. Land trusts have proven to be a useful preservation strategy. Similarly, the work in Albany Park highlights the value of targeted work by local non-profits to preserve units in areas with rising prices.

Value of housing planning

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<u>Housing planning can be used as a tool to address or prevent a serious mismatch between housing supply</u> <u>and demand for people at every stage of the life cycle.</u> In the midst of a strong market, it can be hard to find space to step back and think about overarching issues. Yet, communities that undertake local housing planning, such as that done through <u>Homes for a Changing Region</u>, benefit from a clear vision of the types of housing needed by the community, and can be less reactive to new proposals.

Proximity 📀

Submarket 5

<u>Communities may have an opportunity to build off of nearby assets.</u> Submarket 5 spans a wide geography across the region, and in many areas there is bordering proximity to assets such as strong school districts and transit lines. Communities within submarket 5 should closely evaluate the relationship of their submarket to other submarkets and assets to take advantage of potential opportunities to attract investment.

Strategies

Value of housing planning

Using tools like Homes for a Changing Region can be valuable.

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<u>Using tools like Homes for a Changing Region can be</u> pursue most actively, Submarket 5 communities mu development. Homes for a Changing Region is a ver how to plan for the future of the local housing mark	ust establish a market feasible y valuable tool that can help	e vision for future communities identify
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<u>Rehab programs may be underutilized.</u> In response to communities operate housing rehabilitation progra part, because the cost of bringing the house up to c	ms. These programs are not	always heavily used, in
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Weak market demand	•	

Submarket 5

<u>Declining home values put homeowners at risk</u>. Homeowners in Submarket 5 may be particularly challenged due to declining housing values, which puts residents in this submarket the most at risk of having underwater mortgages.

Strategies

Housing counseling

Communities should familiarize themselves with any HUD certified housing counseling agencies in their area and market their services to residents.

<u>Communities should familiarize themselves with any HUD certified housing counseling agencies in their</u> <u>area and market their services to residents.</u> Housing Action Illinois provides information about housing counseling agencies across the region, which provide an array of housing programs and services. Residents can get access to financial management and budget counseling, mortgage delinquency and

		Submarkets with primary focus	
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ult counseling, pre-purchase education, one-or rmation, fair housing guidance, rehabilitation p rention support, predatory lending education, a	rograms, reverse mortgage co	ounseling, homeless	
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A collaboration between







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