

Orland Park

https://www.regionalhousingsolutions.org/municipality/orland-park

Submarkets (What is a submarket?)

85% of Orland Park is in Submarket 8.

Suburban 1980-99 housing stock, high/middle income, suburban, aging

14% of Orland Park is in Submarket 5.

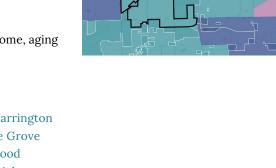
Suburban 1960-79 housing stock, moderate but declining incomes, lower cost stock

1% of Orland Park is in Submarket 6.

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

Areas with a similar combination of these submarkets:

Algonquin	Indian Head Park	Plano
Antioch	Island Lake	Port Barrington
Batavia	Itasca	Prairie Grove
Beecher	Lake Barrington	Ringwood
Braceville	Lake Villa	Sandwich
Bull Valley	Lake Zurich	Sleepy Hollow
Burlington	Lemont	Spring Grove
Burr Ridge	Lily Lake	St. Charles
Campton Hills	Lindenhurst	Symerton
Cary	Mettawa	Third Lake
Channahon	Millbrook	Tower Lakes
East Dundee	Millington	Trout Valley
Elwood	Mokena	Vernon Hills
Fox River Grove	Monee	Wadsworth
Godley	Oakwood Hills	Warrenville
Grayslake	Old Mill Creek	West Dundee
Green Oaks	Olympia Fields	Winfield
Greenwood	Orland Hills	Wonder Lake
Gurnee	Palos Park	
Indian Creek	Peotone	



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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	8
Accessibility and visitability			⊘

Submarket 8

<u>Improving accessibility and visitability can prepare communities for a growing senior population.</u> A growing senior population raises concerns about whether submarket 8 communities are prepared as accessible and visitable places to live. As new housing is built or current housing is rehabilitated, attention should be given to make sure that housing will address the present and future needs of this population. Some submarket 8 neighborhoods were built without important pedestrian infrastructure, like sidewalks and crosswalks. Figuring out how to retrofit such infrastructure into existing neighborhoods would also improve accessibility, as well as position communities to remain attractive as market preferences change.

Strategies

Age-friendly neighborhoods

Communities should create local amenities that will appeal to people of all ages, from young families to seniors.

<u>Communities should create local amenities that will appeal to people of all ages, from young families to</u> <u>seniors.</u> A community can best meet its social and economic demands by having a healthy balance of people from all age groups. Nevertheless, municipalities need to plan for amenities that can attract and retain residents. Neighborhood parks, public spaces and community art spaces such as Karcher Artspace Lofts in Waukegan and those created by Batavia, are only a few of the central elements of an age-friendly community. For seniors that want to live independently in the community, having access to services is vital. Municipalities should think about the development of senior housing/services complexes strategically, and ideally should locate them near transit stations and commercial areas. Such developments can be helped by specific transit oriented development ordinances like Chicago's, which allow increased residential density and reduced parking requirements. Sunset Woods in Highland Park and Thomas Place in Glenview are great examples of developments that came to fruition because of strong collaboration between developers and municipalities. The Northwest Suburban Housing Collaborative's Handyman Program is an innovative senior service program that connects seniors to low-cost maintenance services and helps them to live independently in their homes. Read more about age-friendly policies.

Value of housing planning

Municipalities should invest in long-term planning to identify policies and tools that prepare its housing stock for the

	Submarkets with primary focus		
Issue	5	6	8

future

<u>Municipalities should invest in long-term planning to identify policies and tools that prepare its housing</u> <u>stock for the future.</u> Via planning tools like the Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit, municipalities can better understand current and future housing needs in their communities and develop strategies to move toward a more "balanced" housing stock. Around the region, communities have been drawing on the principles of accessibility and sustainability to create healthier and safer housing. Plainfield's experience in housing development is instructive as well as its density bonus program, which provides an increase in residential density above a base level if a given development meets one or more of 15 village objectives. Community "buy in" regarding balanced housing is more likely to occur if a community creates a housing committee similar to those created by Highland Park and Lake Forest. Municipalities that are interested in incorporating greater accessibility/visitability standards into new development or rehab of existing single-family homes should review Bolingbrook's accessibility/visitability requirements.

Attracting investment

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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.

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

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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 placemaking strategies.

Review regulations affecting real estate development

To better compete for private market real estate investments, communities can preemptively inventory and update development regulations.

<u>To better compete for private market real estate investments, communities can preemptively inventory and</u> <u>update development regulations.</u> Development regulations protect community health, character, and safety, but can also sometimes be outdated or create unintended barriers to private investment. Some regulations are especially onerous and limit developer interest in investment, while others prohibit forms of development the community may wish to allow. For instance, density limitations may prohibit condo buildings in communities' historic downtowns. Large minimum lot sizes may prevent the development of starter homes or housing for older community residents. Similarly, point-of-sale requirements may excessively extend home sale transaction timelines. Communities should audit and potentially refresh existing regulations to ensure that they are not creating unintended or unnecessary barriers to development. Assistance may be available through the Urban Land Institute or local associations of realtors to help evaluate perceptions among private market actors of the difficulty of working in the community.

Attracting younger families

Submarket 8

<u>Communities have an opportunity to attract younger families by striking the right balance between</u> <u>affordable homes and amenities.</u> Younger families generally need affordable starter home price points in order to become new homebuyers. Additionally, providing amenities such as walkable neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces can help meet the preferences of younger generations, such as increased

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interest in biking and walking and more compact ho	ome environments.		

Strategies

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Repurpose and redevelop property

Communities should evaluate existing zoning and take stock of existing infrastructure when making decisions about redevelopment.

<u>Communities should evaluate existing zoning and take stock of existing infrastructure when making</u> <u>decisions about redevelopment</u>. Overdeveloped and vacant retail areas can be rezoned for mixed-use developments or housing. When adding multi-family units near transit, municipalities should consider lower parking requirements to relieve congestion and encourage walkability. Mundelein's Downtown Design Guidelines, Glenview's Downtown Development Code, and Libertyville's payment in lieu of required parking policy are all great examples of how to create a more efficient built environment.

Code issues	⊘	

Submarket 5

Finding a balance between too aggressive and too lenient code enforcement can be difficult. 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

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of either approach compound over tin	ne and can serve as a deterrent t	to future market-dr	iven
rehabilitation.			

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 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.

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

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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.

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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

Submarkets with primary			y focus
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CDCs should consider meeting on a reguladdress local housing challenges and fur areas of the region may lack a strong CD if they should encourage the developme	ther develop a strong relatio C network. Municipalities in	nship and level of tra these areas may war	ust. Some nt to evaluate t local housing
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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.

Growing senior population		0
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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

	Subma	arkets with primar	y focus
ssue	5	6	8
of housing stock diversity may pose pro community. Communities will also need longer drive and will need access to new walkable neighborhoods that provide ea	d to consider how to address th w transportation options. Senic	e needs of seniors ors are more likely t	who can no
Strategies			
Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)			
ADUs may be ideal for seniors who want to dow	wnsize and be close to family membe	rs, or have caregivers li	ve on the
property. ADUs may be ideal for seniors who want t	to downsize and be close to famil	v members. or have	careaivers live
on the property. ADUs are independent h	5	•	U
lots. These units can be a valuable addit	tion to a community's housing s	stock, particularly i	n an area that
has limited opportunities for infill. ADU	Is have the potential to assist of	lder homeowners in	n maintaining
their independence by providing addition	onal income to offset property	taxes and the costs	of home
maintenance and repair. Communities of	considering ADUs can referenc	e the Atlanta Regio	nal
Commission's model ordinance language	ge. Partners for Livable Comm	unities' A Blueprint	for Action also
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Age-friendly neighborhoods

strategies.

Age-friendly neighborhoods are walkable, offer housing and transportation choices, as well as access to basic needs and amenities.

housing ordinances, as well universal design and visitability. Learn more about senior housing

<u>Age-friendly neighborhoods are walkable, offer housing and transportation choices, as well as access to</u> <u>basic needs and amenities.</u> CMAP's Aging in Place whitepaper has a variety of helpful strategies and notes that municipalities should focus on creating age-friendly land use and zoning policies that promote mixed use and allow a diversity of residential districts and housing types, such as allowing for multigenerational homes, cohousing, shared housing, and senior congregate housing. Communities should also accommodate diverse living arrangements, including: "Families of choice" (groups of individuals who are not biologically related but live together and share a kitchen) and allow child and elder care in residential settings by allowing older adults and caregivers to reside together. The Illinois Association of Realtors also has a useful webpage with additional Senior Housing Resources for local municipalities. Learn more about age-friendly community strategies.

Home modifications and maintenance

Implementing programs to help seniors with minor home repairs and safety modifications can help residents that want to age in place.

Implementing programs to help seniors with minor home repairs and safety modifications can help residents that want to age in place. Home modifications and maintenance are fundamental to keeping seniors safe in their homes. They can also be an effective way of reducing housing costs, and increasing affordability. There are a variety of assistance programs that a community can implement, which are outlined in Partners for Livable Communities' A *Blueprint for Action*. Many communities in our region such as those in the Northwest suburbs operate handyman programs to help seniors with small home repairs. Learn more about senior housing strategies.

	Submarkets with primary focus		
Issue	5	6	8
Need for more diverse housing options		⊘	0

Submarket 6

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 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

	Subi	Submarkets with primary focus		
Issue	5	6	8	
source of revenue to fund attorda			TT 1 1 1 T 1	
and Lake Forest all have impleme	able housing initiatives within a mur ented a demolition tax policy.	icipality. Evanston, l	Highland Park	
	ented a demolition tax policy.	icipality. Evanston, l	Highland Park	

<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.

<u>Linking the production of market-rate housing and affordable housing can help address the issue of housing cost burden.</u> Inclusionary zoning efforts naturally work well in strong markets. These policies either require or encourage new residential developments to make a certain percentage of the housing units affordable to residents at target income ranges. Many communities in the region have adopted inclusionary zoning ordinances, including Evanston, Highland Park, and Lake Forest.

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 Homes for a Changing Region, benefit from a clear vision of the

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types of housing needed by the community, and can be less reactive to new proposals.

Submarket 8

The housing stock of communities should accommodate households of various sizes and income levels. Housing stock that is uniform in both its size and type can result in missed opportunities for communities to attract new residents and jobs. While most of the submarket's housing stock consists of newer single-family homes, communities have an opportunity to increase the diversification of their housing stock through new development or retrofitting existing stock. An increase in the mix of housing types can appeal to a wider buyer pool and allow submarket 8 communities to remain competitive as market conditions change.

Strategies

Value of housing planning

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Municipalities should invest in long-term planning to identify policies and tools that prepare its housing stock for the future. Via planning tools like the Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit, municipalities can better understand current and future housing needs in their communities and develop strategies to move toward a more "balanced" housing stock. Around the region, communities have been drawing on the principles of accessibility and sustainability to create healthier and safer housing. Plainfield's experience in housing development is instructive as well as its density bonus program, which provides an increase in residential density above a base level if a given development meets one or more of 15 village objectives. Community "buy in" regarding balanced housing is more likely to occur if a community creates a housing committee similar to those created by Highland Park and Lake Forest. Municipalities that are interested in incorporating greater accessibility/visitability standards into new development or rehab of existing single-family homes should review Bolingbrook's accessibility/visitability requirements.

Proximity

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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.

<u>Using tools like Homes for a Changing Region can be valuable.</u> In order to determine which strategies to pursue most actively, Submarket 5 communities must establish a market feasible vision for future

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development. Homes for a Changing Re how to plan for the future of the local h	•	•	•
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Submarket 5			
<u>Rehab programs may be underutilized.</u> In	-	s are not always h	eavily used in
communities operate housing rehabilit part, because the cost of bringing the h Strategies Approach to rehabilitation	tation programs. These program	-	eavily used, in
communities operate housing rehability part, because the cost of bringing the h Strategies	tation programs. These program nouse up to code exceeds the fur	nding available.	

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 default counseling, pre-purchase education, one-on-one homeownership counseling, rental information, fair housing guidance, rehabilitation programs, reverse mortgage counseling, homeless

	Submarkets with primary focus		
Issue	5	6	8

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 placemaking strategies.

Refinancing resources

Municipalities should market IHDA's I-REFI program to homeowners who may be underwater on their mortgage.

<u>Municipalities should market IHDA's I-REFI program to homeowners who may be underwater on their</u> <u>mortgage.</u> For homeowners with underwater mortgages, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is offering a new program designed to help homeowners who are current on their mortgage payments but owe more than their home is worth due to declining property values in their community. Through the new I-REFI program, IHDA offers underwater homeowners up to \$50,000 in federal assistance to reduce the balance owed on their mortgage and refinance into a new affordable loan based on the current market value of their home. This program may be of particular relevance in Submarket 5 municipalities and should be marketed to residents.

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