



Staunton's Pathway to Affordable Housing and Housing For Working Families

Presentation to City Council
August 24, 2023





Staunton Plan Economic Development Strategic Area: Action 3

Enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for the City through attracting new industries in target areas and supporting the expansion and retention of existing businesses. **This area also addresses housing** and quality of life needs required to attract and retain a qualified workforce.

Actions:

1. Pursue targeted industries for development of Staunton Crossing.
2. Support the retention and expansion of existing businesses, attract new businesses and promote Staunton as a top tourist destination.

3. Prioritize affordable housing and housing for working families.

Key Roles In Affordable Housing

Federal/State Government

- U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- VA Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Private Sector

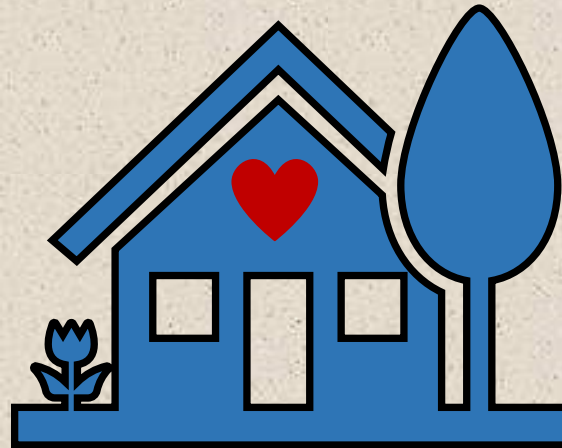
- Private Developers/Contractors
- Rental Property Owners
- Realtors
- Financial Institutions

Housing Providers (Non-profit)

- Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta
- Salvation Army
- Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association
- SAW Habitat for Humanity
- Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Valley Mission
- Valley Supportive Housing
- Virginia Housing

Local Government

- City of Staunton
- Augusta County
- City of Waynesboro



♥ Wrap Around Services

- Budgeting / Financial Education
- Childcare / Schools
- Disability Benefits
- Employment / Job Training
- Food / Baby Supplies / Eldercare Supplies
- Healthcare / Insurance / Medications
- Home Maintenance / Repairs / Yard Care
- Homeownership Education
- Mental Health Services
- Mortgage / Rental / Utility Assistance
- Pet Care
- Reliable Transportation
- Temporary Housing
- Veteran's Services

Support/Coordinating Agencies

- Community Action Partnership of Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro
- Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission



Where We Are Now: Community Development Block Grant Program

- Staunton became a CDBG Entitlement Community in 2019.
- Of the City's yearly allocation:
 - **70% must** benefit persons with low-to moderate incomes.
 - **Only 15% may** be used for Public Services.
- Grant subrecipients offer needed home repairs, supportive rental housing, transitional housing, rental assistance, and home ownership to some of the most vulnerable people in our community as well as other essential services such as meals to the homebound, transportation to medical appointments, legal representation, and children's advocacy.
- **The Block Grant Program is a useful resource but is limited in what it can do to further affordable housing and housing for working families in the City.**

Where We Are Now: Partnership Development

Individual Organizations:

Blue Ridge Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

Blue Ridge Legal Services

Central Shenandoah Health District

Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro

Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta

Salvation Army (Staunton)

Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity

South East Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP)

Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Valley Mission

Valley Program for Aging Services

Valley Supportive Housing

Virginia Housing

Housing Groups:

CAPSAW Housing Supports Group

Central Shenandoah Housing Study Committee

SAW Housing Summit Planning Group

Valley Homeless Connection

Valley Housing Planners





Next Steps: Fall / Winter 2023

- Provide City Council / Staff educational opportunities and relevant guest speakers to expand the knowledge base about the current housing situation and how it affects the City.
- Distribute a survey to the housing providers, developers, owners of rental properties, large employers, and other stakeholders to see what policies could be implemented and types of assistance provided by the City to increase the providers' capacity, effectiveness, and service provision.
- Attend the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Housing Summit being held on October 11-12, 2023. (www.sawhousing.com)
- Create a task list of housing-related activities that the City is currently doing or could do without additional funding and minimal staff effort to further affordable and workforce housing.
- Explore potential available federal and state grant funding and technical assistance opportunities to conduct a housing and developable land inventory and housing strategic plan.



Next Steps: Winter / Spring 2024

- Take advantage of the CDBG 5-year Consolidated Plan Update to gather citizen input about housing needs.
- Investigate ways to leverage the CDBG funds through the FY2025 city budgeting process in order to provide additional support to housing providers and city staff to increase the amount and quality of affordable housing that is available.
- Explore the potential of creating a Housing Committee or Commission, define its role, the requirements and responsibilities of its members, and a funding source to staff it.



Thank You!

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