

10/25/2024 11:00 AM

Note/Message



Need Help?

Dear {{CFirstName}}

Thank you for attending the **First Suburbs Coalition** meeting on Friday, October 18th. In case you missed it, here is a quick synopsis. [You can download the slide deck here.](#)

**Mayor Sollie Flora** delivered opening remarks for the host city of Mission, KS. Mayor Flora shared that the meeting's housing focus was particularly relevant as Mission's Governing Body is interested in housing, and the city plans to add 60 units over the next few years at 60% AMI. Mayor Flora also shared that Mission is proud to be a gold-level Communities for All Ages city, started a Planning Sustainable Places bike-pedestrian plan, and has many ongoing sustainability projects.

---

### **Communities for All Ages Inclusion Tool**

Emily Randel of EJR Consulting has been working with communities to develop the Communities for All Ages Inclusion tool. The purpose of the tool is to put an age-equity lens into action when making decisions at the local government level. Emily shared the contents of the tool and instances where it can be used. There is more information about its application and implementation in the slide deck, and the Inclusion Tool itself can be accessed [here](#).

---

## Updates from the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP)

Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager at MARC and Anna Van Brunt Housing Specialist at MARC, shared updates on the RHP. The RHP Strategy Committee recently completed its goal setting process that will define the next phase of work for the RHP. The next phase will include more opportunities for individuals and organizations outside of the Strategy Committee to be involved in the work through 2025 and beyond.

Katie also let the group know that the upcoming Planners' Roundtable Meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> will include a brief presentation from MARC's housing team over recent research on short-term rentals. If your community is interested in this information, make sure your planner is at the meeting. Meeting details can be found [here](#).

Finally, the team delivered an update on the details of MARC's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) program. Projects included inside the application include:

- Developing a strategy and program to assist communities in reviewing land-use policies, zoning codes and development processes to increase and preserve affordable housing with an aim for implementation and adoption.
- Harmonizing building codes within the region to foster development and preservation of affordable housing
- Funding development of the Community Land Trust Consortium as described in the Regional Business Plan for CLTs that will provide technical assistance and development of CLTs in the region

These are largely the same as the 2023 application. The focus areas of the application are also more targeted based on feedback from HUD with projects. The application focuses on Johnson County and the First Suburbs Coalition. The rest of the MARC region will still be a major stakeholder and will benefit from conversations and materials created. You can read MARC's application and learn more about the PRO Housing Program, including last year's awardees, [here](#).

---

## Partnerships in faith-based development panel

Finally, we were joined by a panel of faith-based organizations that are partnering with communities to create more housing. This was an insightful discussion including ongoing projects across the region, why faith-based organizations are well positioned to create housing solutions, and lessons panelists have learned from doing this work. The panel was moderated by 4<sup>th</sup> District Johnson County Commissioner Janee' Hanzlick. Panelists included:

Lindsay Hicks, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City | [lhicks@habitatkc.org](mailto:lhicks@habitatkc.org)

Reda Ibrahim, RK Contractors | [reda@rkcontractors.co](mailto:reda@rkcontractors.co)

Christina Leakey, Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity | [CLEakey@trumanhabitat.org](mailto:CLEakey@trumanhabitat.org)

Pastor Kevin Schutte, Pathway Community Church | [kvnschutte@gmail.com](mailto:kvnschutte@gmail.com)

---

## Save the Date!

Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Watch your emails for more information about the program and registration.

information about the program and registration.

**Katie Killen**

Housing Program Manager  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway Blvd., Ste. 200  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
816.701.8375 (direct)  
[kkillen@marc.org](mailto:kkillen@marc.org) | [marc.org](http://marc.org)



The Mid-America Regional Council is the nonprofit association of local governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Kansas City region.

This email was sent on behalf of {{TCDisplayName}} located at {{TCADDRAddress1}}, {{TCADDRAddress2}}, {{TCADDRCity}}, {{TCADDRStateProvince}} {{TCADDRPostalCode}}. [To unsubscribe click here.](#) If you have questions or comments concerning this email contact {{TCDisplayName}} at {{TCEmailAddress}}.