

Housing Assessment Tool (HAT)

The HAT was designed to be completed locally while thinking regionally. Depending on local capacity, some communities or regions might wish to engage a facilitator to assist with the assessment. However, locals should drive the process, not the facilitator. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively and involve as many stakeholders as possible to ensure community-wide/region-wide support to guarantee the highest degree of accuracy and best analysis of the assessment.

The HAT is a tool for applicants to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and priorities. By completing the HAT, applicants will become more aware and informed of their current housing inventory in order to develop relevant strategies for housing improvement that take into account the unique characteristics of the region or community.

It is anticipated that applicants conducting a housing assessment will use the information and data gathered through the assessment process to help them determine housing improvement goals and objectives to resolve their housing issues. The applicant should keep in mind this assessment is a tool that can evolve with the changing community issues, opportunities and perceptions. Timeliness, while important, should not be the primary factor for the community in conducting the assessment.

Housing Interagency Advisory Committee (HIAC)

The purpose of the Housing Interagency Advisory Committee (HIAC) is to provide

guidance and direction to communities seeking funding for housing projects. The committee also facilitates coordination and communication between agencies/organizations involved in housing projects and issues as they counsel those communities.

Participants

The core group consists of federal and state agencies involved in the financing of housing:

- Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce)
- Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (RD)
- Federal Home Loan Bank (FHL Bank)

The entire group is known as the Housing Interagency Advisory Committee (HIAC).

These agencies have recognized the chronic dilemma of adequate housing in rural areas and have chosen to come together to work with communities and /or regions to develop strategies that address housing challenges and take advantage of housing opportunities. The group recognizes that no single solution or strategy can be applied to every community or region because of each region's unique characteristics. However, applicable strategies to address long-term housing challenges can be developed based on shared ideas and processes.

Other organizations may participate as needed to provide counseling and information for housing projects.

The Process

The HIAC meetings will be beneficial for communities seeking funding for housing.

First, the community should take some time to develop and complete the HAT. After the HAT has been completed, participating communities shall submit the Housing Profile and HAT to Commerce. This agency shall be responsible for distributing the profile and HAT to the HIAC members for review.

The HIAC meetings are scheduled for January 16, March 20, May 15, June 19, July 17, and November 20, 2019. The completed profile and HAT must be received by Commerce two weeks prior to the meeting. Any profile and HAT not received by the due date, will be scheduled the next available meeting. We will do our best to accommodate the community with travel by using tele-conferencing in Hays, Iola, Newton or Topeka. Appointments are not made until required documentation has been received by CDBG. For a CDBG application, a community must attend a HIAC in the last five years. For a 2020 CDBG application, the community must have submitted the completed HAT and profile page prior to July 1, 2019.

The purpose of the meeting will be to provide guidance to the community regarding its needs. Guidance may include the adequacy of the HAT, most appropriate source of funding and any additional technical assistance that might help the community with its housing needs. The number of participants by a community is not limited; however, one official member of the entity must be present at the meeting. The intent of this process is to involve multiple individuals, partners, groups and organizations. Communities that have many involved parties will benefit most from this process.

Typical Meeting

- Community makes presentation of the HAT – 30 minutes.
- Participating agencies evaluate materials presented and offer recommendations – 1 hour.
- Agencies advise community on the following:
 - The effective and comprehensive nature of the HAT.
 - Funding possibilities and most likely sources for grants or other opportunities.
 - Funding sources to be considered from all agencies present and any other known sources or partners.

Things to Remember

- Every effort should be made to ensure the HAT is as participatory and inclusive as possible.
- Think regionally while completing the HAT.
- Completion of the HAT is a requirement for submittal of a CDBG Housing Application.
- The HIAC meeting is not a requirement for submittal of a CDBG Housing Application, but is figured into the points awarded.

For more information, contact:

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and

HOUSING INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HIAC)

