



Cover Page

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Cost-Burden of Housing

30%
↑

Among 353 neighborhood respondents who provided information on their monthly housing cost, nearly 4 out of 10 indicated that they spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing. Households who spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing are less likely to be able to afford essential needs to maintain their health.

Survey Highlights

88%

of residents indicated that it is somewhat or very hard to find quality, affordable housing



One out of five indicated their current housing situation was somewhat to very unstable

\$760

Average monthly rent among 290 respondents who provided this information



37% of respondents were unable to make repairs to their house in the past year because of cost

3% of respondents have worked with the City of Grand Rapids Housing Rehabilitation Program

Community Resources

STEPFORWARDMICHIGAN.ORG

Provides financial assistance to catch up on mortgage or tax payments for those who qualify.



SEEDS
of PROMISE



Northpointe Bank

Neighborhood Impact Program (NIP) provides up to \$7,500 for home improvement projects. Call 710-5730 for more information.



City of Grand Rapids

Housing Rehabilitation Program offers affordable loans for home improvement projects to those who are eligible. Call 456-3030 for more information.

Senior
NEIGHBORS

Dedicated to helping older adults find and maintain housing that meets their needs. Call 233-0281 to find out more.



HOME
REPAIR
SERVICES

RESOURCES FOR
HOMEOWNERS

Lower-income Kent County homeowners may be eligible for certain emergency home repairs. Call 241-2601 to discuss repair need and eligibility.

Housing and Stress

Housing instability is related to elevated stress levels and depression.

Evidence shows that difficulty keeping up with utility bills, mortgage payments or home repairs may be linked to lower levels of psychological well-being and more intensive use of medical services.

Studies show that homeowners generally have better physical and mental health outcomes than renters. Explanations include the fact that homeowners experience higher levels of self-esteem and an increased sense of control.

Survey Highlights

10%

of residents were always stressed about having money to buy nutritious meals



More than 1 out of 4 residents worry about keeping up with their monthly bills

22%

of residents worry somewhat or very often about paying their rent/mortgage

In the past 3 years, to keep up with monthly rent/mortgage payments:

6 in 10 residents took another job or worked more at their job.

3 in 10 residents stopped saving for retirement

1 of every 3 households cut back on healthy foods.

1 of every 4 residents cut back on health care.



Community Resources



Urban League
of West Michigan

Housing services include foreclosure prevention, landlord/tenant affairs and rental delinquency counseling.

Call the Urban League at 245-2207



**HOME
REPAIR
SERVICES**
RESOURCES FOR
HOMEOWNERS

Offers free financial coaching to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Free Financial Capabilities workshops that covers topics such as credit and budgeting.

Call 241-2601 for more information



Offers a healthy pantry, healthy eating classes and free health screenings.

Find out more by calling 452-7684



**COMMUNITY
FOOD CLUB**

A non-profit, member based grocery store where any Kent County household at or below 200% federal poverty is eligible for membership.

Call 288-5550 to find out more.



Provides meal and transportation services for seniors.

Call 632-7950

Health Concerns

When facing few affordable housing options, families may be forced to live in housing that puts them at risk of lead poisoning, asthma and accidental injury.

The main sources of lead in the home are windowsill dust, soil and paint. Asthma is triggered by several environmental factors, including poor air quality and indoor allergens such as mold, dust mites, pests and rodents.



Survey Highlights

6%

of residents said a household member had high levels of lead in their blood



More than 1 out of 4 respondents had a household member who was diagnosed with asthma

30%

of residents indicated that someone in their household had allergies

More than 1 in 10 residents were told that their house had lead paint.

1 of every 7 residents were told that their house had mold.

1 in 15 residents were told that their house had asbestos.

Nearly 1 of every 3 houses found evidence of chipping or peeling paint.



Community Resources



Works with families to identify and address environmental health hazards for lead poisoning, asthma and accidental injury.
Call Healthy Homes at 241-3300



Helps homeowners fix lead hazards to protect their children from lead poisoning.
Call 241-3300 x306



dontplayaround.org

Educational resources to help families learn more about hidden lead in their homes.
Offers interactive self assessment tool.



City of Grand Rapids

Residential Safety Assessment Program offers fire safety checks and free smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm installation for homeowners in Grand Rapids.
Call 311 or 456-3000



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

Services include water and radon testing and consultation on environmental health concerns.
Call 632-6900

Small Houses

A 2018 City of Grand Rapids Housing Now! report identified several factors that contribute to the city's affordable housing issue, including the lack of housing supply and a shortage of construction workers to satisfy demand for new housing. Adding Small Houses, which are pre-fabricated and range in size from 585 to 1325 square feet, to vacant lots in the Seeds of Promise neighborhood is a potential way to increase housing supply.

The 2019 Neighborhood Housing and Health Survey assessed the attitudes of neighborhood residents about Small Houses.

Survey Highlights

70%

of residents would definitely or possibly consider living in a small house if one was available



Nearly three out of four would support a small house in the vacant lot next to their home

60%

of residents would definitely or possibly support a small house built in their backyard

Only 12% of respondents did not support a small house being built on their block.



Community Resources

ICCF

INNER CITY CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

Introduction to Home Ownership class helps individuals and families determine if home ownership is an appropriate next step for them.
Call 616-336-9333 ext. 300



SEEDS
of PROMISE

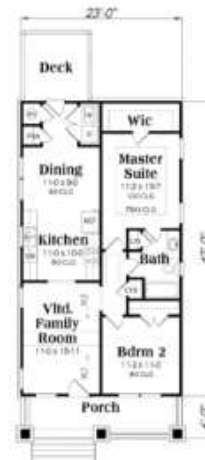


Northpointe Bank

Home Ownership Program (HOP) provides up to \$8,000 for down payment assistance for first-time home buyers.
Call 710-5730 for more information.

What is a Small House?

- Focus on *quality*, rather than *size*
- Range in size from 800 to 1250 square feet
- Designed for narrow city lots
- Built off-site and ready for connections to utilities





The 2019 Neighborhood Housing and Health Survey collected responses from over 400 residents in the Seeds of Promise Neighborhoods. The results of the survey will be used to advance efforts to increase the availability of safe, healthy and affordable housing options in these neighborhoods.



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