

# City of Rochester Housing Policy

*Adopted March 18, 2008*

The City of Rochester will engage stakeholders and foster public/private partnerships to improve neighborhoods, create healthy real estate markets, stabilize and enhance the tax base, and provide a broad array of housing options to address the needs of diverse households.

To accomplish the goals of this Housing Policy, the City shall:

1. Promote rehabilitation, redevelopment and new construction of housing through:
  - A. Maintenance, rehabilitation and/or historic preservation to enhance the well-built and diverse housing stock, which offers a variety of different products than are available throughout much of the region.
  - B. Redevelopment of residential, non-residential and mixed use structures to address market demand for currently underrepresented housing types in the existing housing inventory and/or provide for the preservation of historic structures.
  - C. Assembly of appropriate vacant land through management of the inventory of foreclosed properties, demolition of obsolete portions of the existing housing stock to reduce vacancy, and the strategic acquisition of land to create development opportunities and open space assets that enhance existing residential areas.
  - D. Development of new housing and/or the development of new housing types that address market demand. Efforts will include an emphasis on capitalizing on such unique assets as the Genesee River, Lake Ontario, and the Erie Canal; significant historical, architectural and landscape features; and economic, educational and cultural institutions.
  - E. Enhancement of existing and creation of new public and private financial products that support rehabilitation, redevelopment and new construction
  - F. Encouragement of environmentally sensitive rehabilitation, redevelopment, demolition and new construction methods.
  - G. Encouragement of housing development that supports neighborhood commercial corridors.

2. Promote home ownership through:
  - A. Helping homeowners retain their homes through the use of a variety of programs that prevent foreclosure and predatory lending.
  - B. Cultivating new homeowners through marketing, pre-and post-purchase counseling and training programs, encouraging the development of quality financial products, and developing housing types that create an inventory of housing options to address market demand.
3. Support efforts to strengthen the rental market through:
  - A. Support for owners of rental property to be successful business owners while being accountable for providing quality local management and maintaining housing quality standards.
  - B. Support for the coordination of tenant services that reduce unwanted transiency, encourage accountability, and result in longer-term tenancies.
4. Promote housing choice through:
  - A. Support for fair housing programs that offer housing opportunities to members of protected classes, low- and moderate-income households, people with disabilities, and a full range of age groups.
  - B. Working toward the de-concentration of poverty in City neighborhoods through efforts that attract more middle- and upper-income households and expand housing choices for lower-income households.
  - C. Ongoing efforts with other jurisdictions to ensure that a fair share of housing opportunities are available throughout the region for households with restricted choices.
  - D. Development of permanent supportive housing that meets the needs of populations requiring supportive services, and encouraging the fair share of such housing outside the City.
5. Support the implementation of neighborhood and asset-based planning through interdepartmental collaboration, and:
  - A. Ensuring that citizen-based planning is at the core of efforts to establish a neighborhood vision and plan, advise the City, and provide feedback on development projects.
  - B. Cost-effective use of federal and state grants in order to make dramatic improvements by identifying neighborhoods for the implementation of plans to improve housing market vitality, reduce code violations, decrease transiency, and increase assessed valuations.
  - C. Conducting data-based research and ongoing measurement and monitoring of outcomes to drive decisions on public investments.
  - D. Using market-based strategies as the foundation for all planning efforts.