



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION



Implemented on Cape Cod

OVERVIEW

Having information related to housing assistance programs and availability scattered among several different locations makes it more challenging to find. Providing a website with a repository of available affordable or attainable housing, links to assistance programs, and educational materials and housing data can help make housing-related information more accessible. Providing data on housing needs and the housing landscape and market in an area can help a community better understand the housing challenges residents may be facing. The repository may be managed by a government or non-governmental entity.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- Not Allowed to Build Multi-family Housing
- Too Expensive to Build New Housing
- Too Expensive to Secure or Maintain Housing
- Hard to Find Year-round Housing

POTENTIAL BENEFITS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Streamlined access for the general public makes it easier to find housing-related information and more easily connect people with the resources they are looking for
- The website will need to be maintained and updated regularly to ensure it is providing up to date and accurate information, which could require significant staffing time from the entity managing the centralized source
- It will be important to consider if some populations may need to access the information in a different language and/or format other than online

RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

Austin, TX, Affordable Housing Online Search Tool (AHOST) - The AHOST database includes income-restricted rental units from governmental agencies and allows users to filter income and household size to see which properties they would be eligible for.

Shared Regional Housing Services Pilot Program, Barnstable County, MA - This pilot program's work includes establishing a Regional Affordable Housing database along with providing support and other resources for municipalities in the region.

CASE STUDY: HOUSING NAVIGATOR MASSACHUSETTS (2021)

Housing Navigator Massachusetts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit promoting equity and ease in finding a home. They provide an online tool, freely accessible, where people can search for income-restricted rentals across Massachusetts. Property owners are able to list available rentals and verify the information to make sure the listings are real and accurate. Housing Navigator's search tool provides up-to-date, verified listings with photos and information on bedroom mix, affordability, accessibility, and amenities. It also advertises open wait lists, lotteries, and open units. The site also provides a dashboard with data on affordable housing for the state and each town.

More information can be found [here](#).

