

Housing Development In Rural Communities:

How Can We Get This Done?

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Housing and Economic Development

- Housing and economic development go hand-in-hand
- Successful communities work on both of these areas on a consistent basis
- You are not alone - every community we visit has some form of housing challenge

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Form a Team

- Form a team of enthusiastic people that are committed to making progress
 - Economic development corporation
 - City
 - County
 - Financing partners
 - Business owners
 - Regional and state resources

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Form a Team

- Connect with other communities that have some experience
- People like to help others – give them a call!
 - Spink County
 - Redfield
 - Doland
 - Northfield
 - Frankfort
 - Chamberlain
 - Sturgis

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Understand and Evaluate

- Develop a deep understanding of the local situation
- A housing study is a critical tool
 - SDHDA and the planning districts are key resources
- Recognize the barriers that have kept things from moving forward

Make a Plan

- If you are new to housing, start small
- If you've had some experience, branch out
- Work with your team to create a plan
 - WARNING: Don't get bogged down in every single detail (analysis paralysis)
 - Be thoughtful, but continue to move forward
- Plan for the barriers that have been identified

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Execute

- Dive in and make it happen!
- Use your resources
 - Local
 - Regional
 - State
- Like economic development, housing improvements require consistent effort over a long time frame
- Go back to step one and repeat

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Couple Thoughts

- Focus on the people that are “Rural by Choice”
 - Young families moving back to town
 - Energetic people that have chosen to stay
- Develop housing for these people
- We are all are part of a team – we can do it!

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