



With growing housing challenges and dwindling resources, communities across the Chicago region are struggling to find ways to return stability to their neighborhoods and strengthen the connections between housing, jobs, and transportation. Even if each municipality had the resources to address these economic hardships on their own, these issues do not adhere to municipal borders.

The Northwest Suburban Housing Collaborative (NWSHC) was created in 2011 to help five municipalities in Chicago's Northwest Suburbs develop regional solutions to address the short and long-term housing needs of the participating communities.

The five municipalities – Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect, Palatine, and Rolling Meadows – came together to address the common challenges of rising foreclosures, growing income diversity, affordable rental units at risk of being lost, and employees being forced to live further from work to afford housing costs. Funding from The Chicago Community Trust, BMO Harris Bank and Wintrust Financial through Village Bank and Trust have allowed the five communities to work toward solutions to these challenges.

*Regional
collaboration
is a solution.*

Northwest Suburban Housing Collaborative Initiatives

Homes for a Changing Region - The NWSHC received a technical assistance grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to conduct a *Homes for a Changing Region* analysis for the collaborative area. The *Homes* analysis provides projected housing needs the area is expected to experience in the future. See [CMAP's website](#) for more information.

Senior Housing Needs Assessment – Following up on the results of the *Homes for a Changing Region* report, the NWSHC decided to prioritize the housing needs of senior citizens in the Collaborative area. For this reason, the NWSHC contracted for an in-depth study of the housing needs of senior citizens in the Collaborative area which was completed in November 2013. See: [Senior Housing Needs Assessment](#).

Implementing Senior Housing Activities – In response to the *Senior Housing Needs Assessment*, the Collaborative is working to address the identified housing needs of our senior population:

- Realizing home maintenance is a primary concern for many seniors; the NWSHC in conjunction with the North West Housing Partnership launched a new Handyman Program at the end of May 2014 for residents 65+ years of age. Feedback has been positive and the number of seniors using the program continues to grow each month! See: [Handyman Program](#).
- Many seniors are unaware of the services and housing options available to them. The Collaborative is currently working on a *Senior Resource Guide* which will provide information on transportation, housing, and senior services offered throughout the northwest suburbs. This comprehensive guide will be completed and available by the end of 2014.
- In the upcoming year, the Collaborative will continue to explore ways to improve transportation options and determine how seniors can make their homes safer and easier to live in as they age.

Northwest Suburban Housing Collaborative Partners

The following partner agencies have provided the funding, technical expertise, and resources to make this vision a reality.

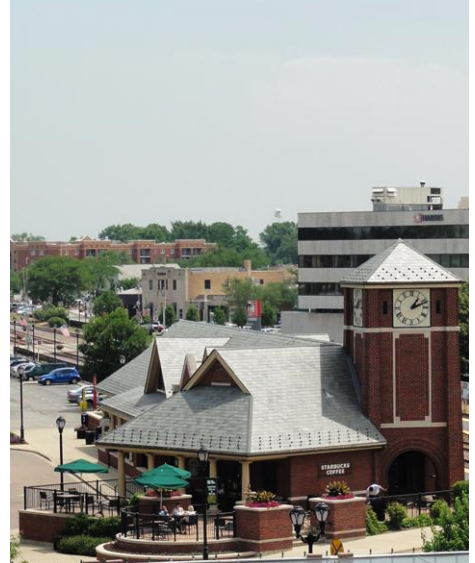
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) has become progressively engaged in identifying and addressing housing issues in the Chicago metropolitan area over the years. It has worked with the Metropolitan Planning Council in the development and implementation of the collaborative model.

Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) has helped facilitate the creation of three housing collaboratives in the Chicago metropolitan area – the south suburbs, the west suburbs, and most recently the northwest suburbs. It lends extensive technical assistance to the NWSHC in its work.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) worked in partnership with the MMC and MPC to provide the NWSHC with the *Homes for a Changing Region* analysis of housing needs in the five municipalities. The *Homes* report was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative. CMAP contributed planning resources to put together this housing supply and demand analysis and continues to help guide the communities toward the kind of housing they want to see in the future.

The Chicago Community Trust (the Trust) has provided integral support to all the housing collaboratives in the Chicago region. The NWSHC has received grant support during the past 3 years from the CCT.

Village Bank & Trust, a WINTRUST Community Bank provided grant to the NWSHC in support of the organization's operational and program costs.



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