



NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Valley Housing Strategy Released

Local governments team up with the private and non-profit sectors to tackle local housing issues

A broad-based coalition of private and public entities rolled out a new strategy today outlining approaches to make housing more attainable in Mesa County.

“We continually hear from people who live here that housing costs are a problem,” according to Mesa County Commissioner Janet Rowland. “There are few things that are more important to people than having a place to live. Taking action on housing should benefit all of us for many years to come.”

“When we started this process last summer, we heard from employers who said it was tough to find housing for their workers,” according to Diane Schwenke, Executive Director of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. “Even with the recent slowdown in the economy, it is still imperative that we start planning now for the long term—not just for lower-end housing, but for the whole spectrum of options that our community needs to thrive.”

“A healthy community is built on diversity—of people, employment and recreation opportunities and housing options,” said Jody Kole, Executive Director of the Grand Junction Housing Authority. “The Grand Valley will be stronger and healthier if this Housing Strategy is adopted and implemented valley-wide.”

Seventeen local organizations came together to draft this strategy to: identify gaps in housing options, analyze who can best address those problems, and create plans for how to ensure Mesa County communities have affordable housing now and in the future. The strategy will be tied to the Comprehensive Plan, which is nearing completion.

Some of the recommendations from the report include:

- Establishing bonus programs that promote higher-density housing development
- Coordination between entities on planning processes and policies related to housing
- Designing pre-approved private development plans to speed approvals
- Creating incentive programs for affordable housing development
- Acquiring land in strategic locations, and preparing it for development

The Grand Valley Housing Strategy Steering Committee consists of 17 local and state government and educational entities, private financial and housing-related businesses, economic development agencies, and local non-profit organizations.

Read the full [Grand Valley Housing Strategy Report](#) on our websites:

- www.gjcity.org
- www.mesacounty.us

“Mesa County—Creating a community of opportunities for all residents with a focus on the future.”