

LINN COUNTY

Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) Summary



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Linn County: Blue Mound, La Cygne, Linn Valley, Mound City, Parker, Pleasanton, and Prescott

9,667 population (2021)

\$130,600 median home value (2021)

\$52,339 median household income (2021)

Projecting county population growth

Established Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Program for residential or commercial construction.

ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

Through a detailed 25-question survey, approximately 500 participants provided input on housing needs by citizens of all ages, in addition to the following stakeholders:

City of Pleasanton City of La Cygne Prairie View, USD 362

Linn County Economic Development
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas

Linn County
F&M Bank
Clinch Realty
Fabcon
Evergy

HOUSING PRIORITIES

NEEDS

ASSETS

Entry- to Mid-Level Single-Family Housing

Demand

Street Repair

Parks and Open Spaces

Senior Housing

Schools

HOUSING CONDITION ANALYSIS

The Linn County housing stock was assessed using the county appraiser data.

Percentage of homes built before 1950 is 49% and after 1950 is 51%

58% rated in average condition and 37% rated in poor condition

97% of homes tax valued under \$200,000

LINN COUNTY CONTACT

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COMMERCE CONTACT

Liz Heron

Kansas Department of Commerce elizabeth.heron@ks.gov





PART 1: Create a housing committee or partner with relevant stakeholders and organizations

This assessment was completed with input and collaboration by the following individuals:

Linn County Housing Committee:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rochelle Schreckhise - Peasanton City Council

CITY STAFF

Jodi Wade - City of La Cygne, Clerk

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Susan Barrett, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas Kimberly Bieker, Fabcon David Lamb, Linn County Rex Bollinger, Prairie View USD 362 JR Glenn, Evergy

OTHER ENTITIES

Jessica Hightower - Linn County Economic Development
Darcy Wilson - Linn County, Housing
Jay Allen - School District
Mitch Falls - Clinch Realty
Jeff Dawson - F&M Bank, President
Marri Krupco - Private Property Manager in Blue Mound area
Charlie Beckman - Homeowner
Robin Spencer - Homeowner





A. Past Housing Initiatives, Infrastructure, and City Services Inventory

1
PAST HOUSING
INITIATIVES

Identify any housing activity that has taken place in the last five years (including grants/programs, pending applications, private new construction, rental development, etc.). Explain what parties initiated the change. What has it done to improve or worsen the housing issues in your community?

There has been some private new home construction and remodeling. This allowed updated and higher priced homes on the market. The Linn County Economic Development Director hired a Housing Champion with the Rural Champions Grant & are currently working on applying for the MIH grant for new construction and developing Revitalization Programs for our existing homes.

NEW
CONSTRUCTION
INITIATIVES

Has your community currently or previously offered incentives to developers, contractors, and occupants to spur new development? If yes, briefly describe the incentive program and its usefulness in your community.

Yes, we currently have a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Program in place. New construction can be either residential or commercial & must be a minimum of \$50,000 valuation. The rebate is for 5 years.

HOME REHABILITATION

Has your community currently or previously had any rehabilitation programs to assist homeowners to repair and improve their older homes? If yes, briefly describe the program and its impact.

Yes, we currently have a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Program in Place. Rehabilitation or remodel can be a \$10,000 minimum valuation for residential or a \$15,000 minimum valuation for commercial. The rebate is for 5 years.





CODE ENFORCEMENT

What is the extent and effectiveness of code enforcement in your community? Is your community without codes?

No building codes in place. Throughout the county there are sanitation, nuisance, & dangerous building abatement regulations and codes. These are effective and enforced through our Sanitation and Codes Director and the court system.

5 HOMEOWNERSHIP SUPPORT

Are there any incentives or financial support to encourage homeownership in your community (down payment assistance, local employer incentives, etc.)? If yes, how much are they utilized? Currently, Not at this time.

drainage, internet service, natural gas distribution and electrical distribution) as it relates to housing needs. Are the operating systems mostly updated and efficient with minimal service interruptions? Are there large updates expected?

Just this year one of our lake communities completed a rural water update.

Describe the infrastructure system (water, streets, sewer, storm

6 INFRASTRUCTURE

Just this year one of our lake communities completed a rural water update and now everyone in that community has access.. in addition, another lake community, one of our largest cities is currently converting their residents from hauling water to the rural water system. Each City & the County operate off it's own sewer system there are several lagoons throughout the county those are divided between holding tanks and laterals. Throughout the majority of the cities there are storm drains in place. If those are not present then. culverts and ditches have been installed. Electrical & gas line distribution is not an issue in the county. Internet service is available in most of the County and the County is continually working on service updates on all locations.





7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

What are the environmental issues in your community that could affect new housing decisions and locations? Examples include: flood zone, wetlands, railroad tracks, major roadways, brownfields, farmland, forest, endangered species, etc.

There are flood zones areas in a few of our cities and throughout the county. Fortunately, there is not one particular location that would affect new housing. There is no secondary or rural roadways prevalent enough to stop construction.

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DISASTERS

N/A

If applicable, describe any persisting natural disaster impacts on your community's housing. Disaster examples include flooding, tornado, fire, windstorm, etc.

What are the community's homelessness prevention efforts? What assistance does the community provide or need for households near homelessness?

9 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Several Community Gardens and Food Banks. There are also a 2 organizations that will help placement for temporary housing and tent camping for 2 weeks at a time.





	Select the	services in your community (Select all that apply).
	X	Grocery store
	X	Public High School
	X	Public Middle School
	X	Public Elementary School
40		Private school
10	X	Bank
BASIC SERVICES	X	Medical clinic
DASIC SERVICES	X	Gas station
	X	Public library
	X	Senior center
	X	Childcare
	X	Community center
		Other:

Other factors or significant events (major employer leaving, COVID pandemic population growth, etc.) not addressed above that are important factors for the housing in your community.

N/A

11 OTHER





B. Housing Needs Assessment

The Local Housing Solution's Housing Needs Assessment tool, created in partnership with PolicyMap, provides detailed reports for every U.S. Census community. Each report presents data, maps, and visualizations that describe local demographics and measures of housing affordability, housing stock characteristics, and variations in key housing indicators by race, ethnicity, age, and income. The tool compiles and visually displays public available national data sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Data on population, age, race, disability, and socioeconomic status provides insight on who lives in the community and informs decisions on how to meet diverse needs and allocate resources.

Estimated Population

Q1. Using the current population estimate and change since 2010, how do you predict the population to change over the next 20 years?	Q2. Using the data and local knowledge, how do you anticipate population change to impact your community's future housi need?	
☐ Significantly increase ☐ Increase ☐ No change ☑ Decrease ☐ Significantly decrease	Population has decreased since 2010 which puts a demand and urgency on revitalization of existing homes, building of moderate income housing, and multi dwelling units for individuals and families. Without these businesses are unable to fill the open positions available & economic development is unable to bring in new businesses to the	

Poverty Level and Trend

Q3. Using the poverty estimate graph and local knowledge, describe how the poverty level in your community could influence your housing needs.

county.

The Poverty Rate in Linn County is at 11.8% with over 20% being under the age of 64. This is another important reason revitalization, moderate income housing, and multi dwelling units are needed. Expanding the Economic Development of the County, giving citizens more employment opportunities go hand in hand.





Q7. How has the share of

Share of Population with a Disability

Q4. Using the disability data and local knowledge, describe how the share of population with disabilities in your community could influence your housing needs.

Population with disabilities within the Linn County is 17.5% which is 4.5% higher than the State of Kansas. 11% of that population has ambulatory difficulty. Building Moderate Income Housing and/or multi unit dwellings means ADA compliant housing and that would allow more people to live on their own, become self sufficient, and hopefully more involved in the community.

2. RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

05. How did the share of

A healthy housing market provides a diverse range of housing options, including rental and market homes affordable to people of different incomes. An examination of the percentage of households that rent their homes, and the characteristics of these renter households (age, income, and costburden) can help communities understand the needs of renters and the extent to which policy changes may be needed to help ensure those needs are met. The availability of rental units can encourage young professionals and families to move to a community and eventually settle down to purchase a home.

06. Which age cohorts are

households who community chan 2010 to 2020?	•	10 ST lil -3)	cely to rent? (Choose	mod bur	tal households that are derately or severely cost- dened changed from LO to 2020?
X Increase☐ Little to no☐ Decrease	J		15-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75-84 85+		Increase Little to no change Decrease
Q8. What is the monthly median rent in 2020?	annual median	the c in No, t prope Keep	change in monthly me the lack of housing is ca	dian ausii g lan e me	•





Analysis: Rental Affordability

Q11. Using the data and local knowledge, what are the rental housing needs in your community?

Throughout Linn County there is a shortage of viable rental homes that are affordable and available. Revitalization of the current stock is crucial and then possibly, building new rental homes or multi unit dwellings would be the next step.

3. HOMEOV	NERSHIP AFFORDA	ABILITY
change in your	ne homeownership rate community from 2010 to	Q13. Which age cohorts are MOST likely to own? (Choose 2-3)
ZO20? X Increase Little to Decrease	no change	☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 75-84 ☐ 85+
Q14. What is the median home value in 2020?	_	id the annual median family income keep up with ange in median home value from 2010 to 2020? Yes
prevalent in yo Less \$60,0 \$80,0 \$150 \$150 \$300 \$400 \$750	me values are MOST ur community? (Choose 2- than \$60,000 000 - \$79,999 000 - \$99,999 000 - \$149,999 0,000 - \$199,999 0,000 - \$299,999 0,000 - \$499,999 0,000 - 749,999 0,000 - \$999,999	Q18. Which home values are LEAST prevalent in your community? (Choose 2-3) Less than \$60,000 \$60,000 - \$79,999 \$80,000 - \$99,999 \$150,000 - \$149,999 \$200,000 - \$199,999 \$200,000 - \$299,999 \$300,000 - \$399,999 \$400,000 - \$499,999 \$500,000 - 749,999 \$750,000 - \$999,999 \$1,000,000 or more



Q19. Are owner households more moderately	or severely cost-burdened?
Moderately Cost-BurdenedSeverely BurdenedSame	
Analysis: Homeownership Affordability	
Q20. Using the data and local knowledge, whyour community?	nat are the owner-occupied housing needs in
Revitalization for existing homes and incentive larger family homes are available.	s for empty nesters to down size so those
4. DEDICATED AFFORDABLE HOUS	SING
Analysis: Dedicated Affordable Housing	
Q21. Does your community have subsidized h Yes through Vouchers for tenants and USDA loa	
Q22. Describe how the subsidized housing an housing needs.	nd expiration dates impact your community's
Subsidized housing in Linn County is used mose expire, those seniors would not be able to affor accommodations in a county that does not have	rd their rent and would be forced to find other
5. ALIGNMENT OF HOUSING SUPP	PLY AND DEMAND
Q23. Is crowded housing high in your community?	Q24. If yes, is the crowded housing more severe in owner or rental households in your community?
Moderate	

□ N/A

COMMERCE

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Analysis: Alignment of Housing Supply and Demand

Q25. Using the data and local knowledge, how does the share of crowded housing impact your community's overall housing need?

Building moderate income housing & offering down payment assistance will help families move into larger homes with more space. This will allow adult children to move out on their own.

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Q26. When was the majority of the homes in your community built? (Choose 1-2) Pre-1940 1940 - 1969 1970 - 1979 1980 - 1989 1990 - 1999 2000 + Q28. Describe the areas in or near your con Areas of LaCygne, Pleasanton, Linn Valley, Center	Q27. Describe the age of your community's housing stock and how that impacts your community's housing need. Revitalization is needed as well as more housing. No growth in housing with an increase in the population is not sustainable. Inmunity with moderate to high flood risk. Tryille, & Mound City are in high risk flooding areas.
Q29. Describe how this impact housing inve Flood zones limit where new homes can be built ineed to be expanded or dilapidated homes demo	n city limits. This means that either city limits will





7. HOUSING STOCK FOR OLDER ADULTS

households in your community change from 2015 to 2020?	in the total share of senior households in your community?		
X Increase	☐ 65 - 74		
Decrease	X 75 - 84		
☐ No change	□ 85 +		

Q32. What is the potential housing need for new services or housing types for older adults?

There is a definitely a potential need. It is certainly a want among our elderly citizens. Senior housing, maintenance free units or assisted living are all housing types that are needed for our seniors.

Analysis: Housing Stock for Older Adults

Q33. Considering the share of senior households and the largest senior age cohort in your community, how does this impact your community's housing needs?

Seniors of Linn County have indicated that they want assisted living and maintenance free apartments. If these housing options were available, seniors would be able to move out of their family-sized homes to make them available for families to purchase.





C. Stakeholder Interviews

QUESTIONS	Prairie View USD 362	Linn County, KS	Fab-Con
Number of employees	200	195	67
Employee wage range	\$12.50/hr - \$28/hr \$43,750 - \$145,000	\$10.10/hr - \$48.93/hr	\$18.40/hr - \$36.50/h
Number of new jobs created in the last year	0	6	0
Number of new jobs expected to be created in the next year	0	3	2
Number of existing jobs that are unfilled because a lack of adequate housing	2	3	Yes
Is housing an issue for employee recruitment?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of employees living in the community but who have inadequate housing and are seeking better living conditions.	10	Unknown	8
How many employees commute over 60 mies or over an hour for work?	10	29	3
Is the business planning an expansion or reduction in the workforce?	No	Slight expansion	Expansion

Analysis: Largest Employers

Using this data and local knowledge, what are the common trends for housing needs for the largest employers in the region? Are there anticipated future housing needs for the workforce? If so, what price range and housing type are needed?

Employers have indicated that if there were more housing options available their workforce that lives outside the county would move into the county. Single family homes and apartments are needed throughout the county to house the needed workforce. These options need to be in the moderate price range, which should allow families of local workforce to be able to afford them. We also anticipate being able to attract more employers to Linn County if our housing situation improves.





C. Stakeholder Interviews continued

QUESTIONS	REALTOR #1: Trenton Johnson Crown Realty, 6/16/23		
What HOUSING TYPE was ranked the highest need?	Single Family Homes, Multi Unit	Single Family	
What HOUSING TYPE was ranked the lowest need?	Tiny Homes	Home over 2,500 sq ft	
What HOUSING STYLE was ranked the highest need?	Ranch / Garden Apartments	Ranch / Split Level	
What HOUSING STYLE was ranked the lowest need?	2-story	A-Frames	
Takeaways or comments	Mr. Johnson feels the county needs a multi-unit dwelling built. He was very passionate about this.	Mr. Falls believes moderate income housing is needed within the county and revitalization is imperative.	

Analysis: Realtors

According to the local realtors, what are the local and regional housing needs?

In both Linn County and the cities within single family homes and multi unit dwellings for families are needed.





D. Regional Housing Analysis

List the "Housing Opportunities & Challenges" for your region (located at the end of each region chapter).

- Linn County has both the land and vacant lot donation from participating cities. Most of these sites with infrastructure in place. The challenges we are facing is building moderate income homes and/or incentives to build those homes.
- We also face the need to replace & repair older units, especially rental units.

Describe how these regional housing challenges continue to impact your community's housing.

Linn County has a vacancy rate of 21.38% not because there are that many units available but because there are so many units in poor condition. Across Linn County there is a shortage of viable rental homes that are affordable and available. Several employers have employees looking for housing and open positions because of the housing shortage within the County.





E. Housing Physical Condition Assessment

What are the primary housing challenges

Describe the focus area of your housing assessment (entire community, neighborhood, etc.) and information collected.

This housing assessment was conducted for the whole Linn County area.

	served from the physical condition essment? (Select 1-3)	with higher concentrations of deteriorated or dilapidated homes?
	Minor maintenance or repairs	Yes, in the Pleasanton, Blue Mound, Parker
X	Trash or vehicles in yard	and Centerville areas.
X	Deteriorated homes (2 major structural problems)	
	Dilapidated homes (3 + major structural problems)	
	Vacant homes	
	Neighborhood development (lack of lighting, streetsca	pe)
X	Infrastructure deterioration (streets, sidewalk)	
П	Other:	

If collected, is there a higher concentration between owner- vs. rental-occupied units deteriorated or dilapidated?

The need for rehabilitation is fairly even across owner occupied and rental homes.

What are the key takeaways from the housing condition assessment?

Are there neighborhoods or parts of town

Linn County is in need of rehabilitation & revitalization as much as new construction. There is more of a need for better, improved housing in Pleasanton, Parker, Centerville and Blue Mound than in the other cities in the county.





PART 3: Community engagement

Public input and ongoing engagement are essential components of the planning process to ensure the identified housing needs, goals, and actions reflect the needs and desires of your residents. Integrating their input through the planning process increases support for implementation and can reveal new stakeholders to further address housing needs.

1. Describe your community engagement method and target audience? Approximately how much of the community did you engage?

We emailed, hand delivered, and spoke to the residents of Linn County asking them to complete a detailed 25 question survey. We had close to 500 surveys completed by citizens of all ages.

2. What are the identified housing needs and concerns by community residents?

More single family housing is needed Senior assisted living or maintenance free apartments Revitalization is needed

3. What are the identified housing needs and concerns by builders and/or developers? (or N/A if not applicable)

N/A

4. What are the key takeaways from the community engagement initiative?

The key takeaway from the community survey was that the residents love living in Linn County and would prefer to stay here through all stages of their lives. In order to accommodate this, we need more single family homes, apartments and senior living facilities.





PART 4: Final assessment of data, input and setting priorities

Once the housing committee thoroughly reviews the community's data and public input, the committee pulls it all together to establish a clear assessment of the local housing needs. This is the opportunity to set clear objectives and priorities for housing in a community.

HOUSING NEEDS

1 Entry-level to Mid-level Single-Family Housing - quality and affordability - We have a shortage of single family housing that would be affordable to young individuals or families starting out. We need homes ranging from 1-4 bedrooms in order to attract families to live in Linn County.

Streets - The streets in all 7 of our cities are in disrepair. The cities

- don't have enough funding to complete the necessary work to update this aging infrastructure. We have one city that is discussing turning their Main Street into a gravel road because the pavement needs so much work and they can't afford it. The county roads are in good condition for the most part.
 - **Senior housing -** We have one assisted living facility in Linn County and it is always full. We need smaller housing 1-2 bedroom units, either apartment or homes or assisted living facilities to house our seniors. If our seniors were able to move into smaller homes, the homes they raised their families in could be sold to other families.



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PART 4: Final assessment of data, input and setting priorities

HOUSING ASSETS

Demand - The committee believes that the demand for homes in Linn County is our number one housing asset. There is such need for

diverse housing that we believe anything we build will be filled quickly. The need for single family housing of all sizes is something we see throughout the county. We need smaller homes for our young people to start out with. We need 2-4 bedroom homes for growing families. We need senior housing for empty nesters to move into to. If we can build homes to accommodate all stages of life in Linn County, we will be able to serve the entire population and greatly increase the quality of life in our communities.

between our cities. We have several historic parks with walking trails that are peaceful and free to use. Our cities take pride in their parks and have boards that work to bring in resources and keep them up so that they remain an asset for our citizens. Our communities do an amazing job coming together for the beautification of these shared public spaces and take great pride in their work.

Schools - There are three excellent school districts in Linn County. We also have a technical education campus that is allowing students to graduate with certificates in professions such as construction, welding and heavy equipment. These students are then able to obtains jobs that can support them and fill gaps in our communities as well.

Parks and open spaces - Linn County is rural. We have vast open spaces

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PART 4: Final assessment of data, input and setting priorities

FINAL QUESTIONS

Are there specific regions or neighborhoods in your community that needs concentrated effort?

Blue Mound, Centerville, Parker, Pleasanton

Describe the community's timeline for addressing the priorities.

The County has already started addressing some of the priorities. We have established a NRP program and are working toward implementing another incentive program to help homeowners with repairs. We anticipate applying for Round 3 of the MIH grant this year in order begin tackling the larger issues.

Identify the local stakeholders who will be involved in addressing priorities.

County officials, City officials, property owners, developers, builders, realtors

What are the largest obstacles in addressing the priority areas?

Taxes
Funding
Change
Lack of community Involvement
Lack of knowledge of how to use programs that are available
Local commitment





OCCUPANCY	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
Owner-occupied housing			X
Renter-occupied housing			X
Temporary housing		X	
HOUSING TYPE	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
Entry-level single-family housing			X
Mid-level single-family housing			X
High-level single-family housing	X		
Large, lot acreage housing	X		
Townhomes / row houses		X	
Duplexes		X	
Multi-family apartments			X
Condominiums (condos)		X	
Manufactured / mobile homes		X	
Senior (independent) housing			X
Senior care facilities			X
Downtown housing (above commerc	cial)		X
POPULATION	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
Young professional housing			X
Family housing			X
Senior housing			X
Workforce housing			X
Disabled housing		X	
Low-to-moderate income housing	X		
Moderate income housing			X
High income housing	X		
Homeless housing		X	
Former incarcerated housing		X	





HOUSING INITIATIVES	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
New construction			X
Rehabilitation			X
Infill development			X
Demolition			X
Homeownership incentives			X
Developer incentives			X
Code enforcement	X		
Regional collaboration	X		
Homelessness prevention		X	
Brownfield development		X	
HOUSING FACTORS	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED

HOUSING FACTORS	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
Affordability			X
Demand	X		
Land availability	X		
Historic homes	X		
Housing type variety	X		
Housing price variety			X
Housing quality			X
Aging housing stock			X
Construction costs			X
Worker shortage			X
Vacancy		X	
Flood zones		X	
Other:			





INFRASTRUCTURE / AMENITIES	HOUSING ASSET	NEUTRAL	HOUSING NEED
Water distribution	X		
Stormwater drainage			X
Sanitary sewer	X		
Sidewalks / trails			X
Streets			X
Parks / open space	X		
Reliable internet			X
Childcare			X
Schools	X		
City services (library, pool, etc.)	X		
Emergency / safety (fire, police)	X		
Health services	X		
Retail / restaurants			X
Jobs / employment			X
Proximity to urban areas		X	
Transportation services		X	
Community center	X		
Other:			

