



May 16th, 2018

Dear Rental Agent and Property Managers,

House Manistee is reaching out to collaborate! Alliance for Economic Success (AES) has been talking housing in Manistee County for several years. In January of 2018, we held a small housing summit meeting at the Manistee ISD. During this meeting, Sarah Lucas, with Networks Northwest, presented on the need for more attainable housing for all. Bob Collins, with Home Builders Association of West Michigan, spoke about the need for skilled trade workers. He notes that since the recession in 2008 homebuilding has seen great growth. The call to action has been the creation of House Manistee.

House Manistee is comprised of four work groups: Policy & Planning, Resources, Funding & Incentives, and Communication. We meet the second Thursday of the month at AES. Since the inception of House Manistee, the workgroups have expressed the need for local proprietors to have a voice in addressing our critical housing concerns.

Conversation points have been:

- Amending local zoning ordinances to allow accessory dwellings on existing parcels
- Creating funding streams to address our current housing stock with home improvements and repairs
- Development conversations are focusing on utilizing existing resources, grassroots investors, and buildings that can efficiently be converted to attainable housing units

House Manistee is convening a meeting with local lenders to express the need for creative lending options for those that already have properties, and may be willing to refurbish these units into multifamily/duplex units, or refurbish an accessory dwelling unit. We are also convening with local realtors to identify housing stock, analyze trends in homeownership, and promote rehabbing properties.

House Manistee created a landing place for resources on its website, housemanistee.org. The website aims to be a resource for all aspects of housing. This includes providing the rental listings, professional training seminars, public education seminars, and resources for housing as a whole. *We need rental listings for this site.* Please email your photos and description to info@housemanistee.org and we will gladly promote your listings free of charge. We simply ask to be updated if the listing has been filled via email. We will also promote open house events, and share postings on our Facebook page.

House Manistee would like to bring you to the discussion by offering a revolving meeting that would take place to suit your specific needs. Ideally, this meeting would rotate throughout the county on a bi-weekly or monthly schedule. We aim to bring industry professionals together to address your needs and collaborate with local professionals to fill those needs. An example would include painters, cleaners, plumbers, lenders, investors, and realtors.

We hope that you will join us in obtaining affordable housing for all!

Alliance for Economic Success 231.723.4325

House Manistee www.housemanistee.org Find us on Facebook email info@housemanistee.org