

5 EFFECTS OF A LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Leelanau County homes in July:
Average Sale Price \$935,494
Median Sale Price \$607,500

The lack of affordable housing in Benzie and Leelanau Counties has reached a crisis point. Essential workers, families, and long-time residents are being priced out of their communities. This housing crisis is impacting all facets of life, from the local economy to essential services, and threatens the vibrancy and sustainability of our communities.



1 HEALTHCARE CRISIS



The lack of affordable housing creates a ripple effect through the healthcare sector. Hospitals, doctor's offices, and elderly care facilities struggle to attract and retain essential staff like nurses and caregivers who can't afford to live near their workplaces. This leads to understaffing, longer wait times, and potential closures of critical healthcare services. Ultimately, the entire community suffers as residents are forced to seek care further away or go without, jeopardizing their health and well-being.

2 ESSENTIAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Essential workers in fields like healthcare, education, emergency services, and trades cannot afford to live near their jobs, leading to understaffing, reduced services, and longer wait times for residents.



3 LOCAL BUSINESS IMPACTS

Restaurants, retail shops, and grocery stores struggle to attract and retain employees due to the high cost of living. This can result in reduced operating hours, limited services, and potential closures, harming the local economy and community access to essential goods.



4 EDUCATION IN JEOPARDY



The lack of affordable housing disrupts the educational landscape. Schools struggle to attract and retain

qualified teachers and staff who can't afford to live in the community. Declining enrollment, a result of families being priced out, further threatens the viability of schools and limits educational opportunities. Additionally, the absence of young children and families diminishes the community's vibrancy and long-term sustainability.

5 PUBLIC SAFETY CHALLENGES



Emergency response times increase as first responders cannot afford to live within the communities they serve. This puts residents at risk and creates additional strain on already limited resources.

WHAT SLEEPING BEAR GATEWAYS COUNCIL IS DOING TO HELP.

Community Collaboration:

SBGC is actively bringing together community stakeholders, including local government, schools, and regional organizations, to develop and implement attainable housing solutions.

Advocacy and Policy:

SBGC is working with state legislators and agencies to address policy barriers.

Partnerships:

SBGC is forging partnerships to explore innovative housing solutions and leverage available resources.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Support SBGC:

Volunteer time, share ideas, or donate to support SBGC's efforts to create affordable housing solutions.

Spread Awareness:

Start conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about the affordable housing crisis and its impact on the community.

Engage With Elected Officials:

Write letters or contact your representatives in Lansing to express your concerns about the lack of affordable housing and urge them to support solutions.



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