

APPENDIX B

## Integrative Design Project Priorities Survey

Effective as of January 1, 2026

PROJECT NAME:

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PROJECT ADDRESS:

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SURVEY COMPLETION DATE:

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Understanding the context of your affordable housing development project is critical to ensuring the project successfully meets the needs of residents. Once completed, this survey will guide the integrative design process to inform overall project goals while also strengthening the project's potential impact on health, energy, and resilience within the community.

### ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Hold conversations with community members and property personnel as specified below to better understand the community context for the property—what people value most, what works, and what doesn't work in their current residences and neighborhood.

Teams should engage with:

- Residents and/or community members: Have conversations with residents, potential residents, or community members.
- Building management:
  - » **Existing buildings:** Consult with current building management or resident services staff members who have regular interactions with building residents, and seek input from operations or maintenance staff.
  - » **New construction:** Speak with building managers, operations or maintenance staff and/or resident service staff of similar local projects.

We encourage teams to engage with residents and building management staff as much as is feasible given your project timeline and resources. At a *minimum*, one conversation with residents and/or community members and one conversation with building management or resident services staff must occur.

**1. Identify populations served**

Identify the unique populations of your development below, as applicable. If your project is accommodating any eligible persons seeking housing, please select “no specific population identified.” Please check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Families  | Alternative family or household structures (e.g., multigenerational, foster families, single parents, grandfamilies) |
| Veterans  |  |
| LGBTQ   | Short-term housing (e.g., vocational training programs)  |
| People with physical or intellectual disabilities                     | No specific population identified  |
| Older adults, independent living                                      | Other population; describe:  |
| Older adults, assisted living   |  |
| Supportive housing  |  |
| People who were formerly incarcerated                                 |  |
| Mixed-income households   |  |
| People experiencing homelessness or people who were formerly homeless |  |

**2. Ground truth**

In addition to one-on-one conversations, what forms of feedback have you used or will you use to collect input from residents or community members that will inform the priorities for this project? Please check all that apply.

We recommend asking residents and community members first about their preferences for giving feedback to ensure your methods are appropriate. A combination of methods can complement each other and align with preferred ways to provide feedback.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Surveys  | Resident council                         |
| Interviews   | Community advisory group                 |
| Focus groups   | Suggestion box for confidential feedback |
| Community-designed feedback systems; communities decide what and how they would like to provide feedback (please specify): | Other; describe:                         |

### **3. Community reflection and understanding**

Responses below should be informed by 1) individual factors where applicable, including age, health, physical and neurological ability, language, and employment; and 2) site and location factors where applicable, including weather, physical infrastructure quality, and proximity to jobs, services, and transit.

1. Who does this development serve? Who does it not serve? Among those populations it is intended to serve, who is most vulnerable?
2. Identify some challenges and opportunities people you serve (particularly the most vulnerable) are facing. What are the root causes of those challenges?
3. What are the assets, cultural norms, or community resources this community uses to overcome challenges?
4. What are the opportunities for ongoing resident leadership in the design and development of this project?

#### 4. Comprehensive community development

Based on information gathered from the ground-truth and community-reflection activities above, what are two key takeaways that will inform your engagement process?

##### IDENTIFY RESIDENT HEALTH FACTORS

Identifying health factors in a community is a starting point for positively influencing health outcomes and quality of life for residents. Project design, development, operation, and management, as well as programs, play a significant role in influencing these outcomes.

Follow the steps below to identify community health factors for your project and then reflect on findings by responding to the prompts.

- Go to [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/).
- Scroll down to the “How healthy is your community?” search field.
- Input the county or ZIP code of your Green Communities certification project in the search field. A list of counties should appear in the dropdown.
- Select the appropriate county and click “Search.” Wait for tables of Population Health and Well-being and Community Conditions for the project’s county to load.
- Read the data in the Population Health and Well-being and Community Conditions tables, including the highlighted metrics that appear when clicking the boxes labeled “Show areas to explore” and “Show areas of strength.” Then answer the following:

List three or more factors identified as “areas to explore” for your community:

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List three or more factors identified as “areas of strength” for your community:

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What specific health factors should you consider when designing and developing this project?

How will this information impact your project?

#### For consideration

 Project teams may choose to operationalize the health findings in this section further by instituting optional *Criterion 1.6 Design for Health and Well-Being: Health Action Plan*, and by incorporating strategies throughout the 2026 Green Communities Criteria intended to support positive health outcomes for residents of affordable housing. To identify specific healthy design strategies for your project, look for criteria throughout all eight categories tagged with the blue cross icon, indicating health as a leading theme for that criterion.

#### UNDERSTAND PROJECT ENERGY USE

Managing energy costs begins with design to set the property up for success. Annual energy use, the emissions associated with that energy, and the energy associated with production of building materials are all influenced by both design and property management. Informed and intentional decision-making about these choices can bring down costs and reduce environmental impacts.

As the market for electricity and other heating fuel shifts, energy planning is a critical strategy for developers and property managers to consider emissions and operating costs for the future.

In collaboration with your project team and with energy raters or auditors, answer the following prompts:

1. Indicate whether these systems will be fueled by electricity in the first year of operation after project completion:

Domestic water heating

Ventilation

Heating

Cooling

Cooking

Clothes drying

2. To achieve zero emissions, equipment replacements (particularly emergency replacements) must be considered carefully and planned in advance for systems that are not fueled by electricity. If any of the systems indicated above are not electric, consider how the property would respond to an unexpected equipment failure. List three ways to prepare in advance (e.g., an electric panel study to ensure adequate electric service and/or additional wiring needs) to better ensure that the replacement equipment is electric and efficient.

*Refer back to this activity as your team compiles the Operations & Maintenance Manual in Category 8.*

3. Who will pay the costs of heating and cooling?

Owner

Tenants

Combination of owners and tenants

4. Does your project include clean energy production?

Yes      No

Consider how the project could leverage clean energy to offset annual energy costs for tenants.

5. A growing number of electric utility providers offer discounted rates for customers with electric heating systems and/or for customers within certain income brackets. These discounted rates can, when compared with rates for other sources of energy, make an all-electric building the most cost-effective one to operate.

Does the project's local utility provide a special rate structure for heating and cooling with electricity?

Yes      No

Compare the monthly fixed charges from your potential utility providers as well as the rates for energy.

#### For consideration



Project teams may lower energy costs by incorporating strategies throughout the 2026 Green Communities Criteria intended to optimize energy efficiency and clean energy sources. To identify specific energy strategies for your project, implement optional *Criterion 5.1 Energy Planning* and/or look for criteria throughout all eight categories tagged with a green asterisk icon indicating energy as a leading theme for that criterion.

**DETERMINE CLIMATE HAZARDS AND ASSESS RISKS**

The best way to maintain housing through a significant weather event or emergency is to plan for likely scenarios. Complete the following steps to understand and document the climate hazards and associated risks for your project.

1. Identify location-specific resources on climate hazards, ensuring they are up to date. Consult at least one of the available resources to determine the hazards likely to impact your project. Local hazard-mitigation plans and resources are typically available online from city, county, or state offices focused on planning, climate resilience, risk management, or similar services. Mark the hazards likely to impact your project in Column 2 of Table 1, below.

**Note for all projects:** If local and/or state resources are unavailable, look to national climate and resilience authorities that filter hazards by location. Examples include the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Risk Index and Enterprise Community Partners’ Portfolio Protect tool. See *Resources* from *Criterion 1.5 Adaptive Planning for Resilient Communities* for additional details. Consider consulting with professionals who have climate expertise (e.g., a civil or environmental engineer).

**Note for substantial and moderate rehabs:** Rehabilitation project teams are encouraged to seek firsthand hazard insights from residents and operations and maintenance teams. Mark the hazards likely to impact your project in Column 2 of Table 1, below.

2. Drawing from field experts, project charrettes, and other available sources, indicate in Column 3 the risks posed by each applicable hazard (e.g., extreme temperature, structural or water damage) to future residents and physical infrastructure in your project.
3. Based on the severity of risks identified and overall project goals, prioritize at least three hazards for the project in Column 4.


**TABLE 1 | CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE: HAZARDS AND ADAPTATIONS**

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
HAZARDS	IS THE HAZARD APPLICABLE? (MARK THOSE APPLICABLE WITH AN "X.")	DESCRIBE RISKS TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY. CONSIDER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES, ETC.	INDICATE THE TOP 3 PRIORITY HAZARDS, BASED ON RISKS.
Avalanche			
Coastal flooding			
Cold wave			
Drought			
Earthquake			
Hail			
Heat wave			
Hurricane			
Ice storm			
Landslide			
Lightning			

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COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
HAZARDS	IS THE HAZARD APPLICABLE? (MARK THOSE APPLICABLE WITH AN "X.")	DESCRIBE RISKS TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY. CONSIDER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES, ETC.	INDICATE THE TOP 3 PRIORITY HAZARDS, BASED ON RISKS.
Rainwater flooding			
Riverine flooding			
Strong wind			
Tornado			
Tsunami			
Volcanic activity			
Wildfire			
Winter weather			
Other (please list):			

**For consideration**

 Project teams may build from this hazard identification and risk assessment by implementing optional *Criterion 1.5 Adaptive Planning for Resilient Communities* and by incorporating strategies throughout the 2026 Green Communities Criteria intended to support development of more resilient affordable housing. To identify specific resilience strategies for your project, look for criteria throughout all eight categories tagged with an orange arrow icon indicating climate resilience as a leading theme for that criterion.

**CREATE AND CLARIFY YOUR PROJECT’S MISSION**

The data and insights you have gathered should inform and empower the project team, residents, staff members, and other stakeholders. To bring all that together before launching into the focused work ahead, project team members should articulate a clear, concise understanding of what this project will accomplish in the context of its place and time.

The project mission statement should express at a high level what the project will achieve for the community. It should reflect the values of the organizations involved but should be distinct from those missions. It should be direct, using clear, plain language that is free of industry jargon. And it should be short—no more than two sentences.

Review the Project Mission Writer ([www.enterprisecommunity.org/learning-center/resources/design-matters-toolkit](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org/learning-center/resources/design-matters-toolkit)) and these three project mission examples from affordable housing developers.

#### **Example project missions:**

1. Prioritize a healthy indoor resident experience (e.g. warm, welcoming common spaces; high-visibility common spaces) that extends into the exterior and surrounding neighborhood to provide a vibrant environment by incorporating an amenity-rich green space, tree coverage from existing and newly planted trees and shrubs, and traffic-calming strategies to ensure resident safety.
2. Develop a senior property that features aging-in-place design strategies and is prepared to withstand negative impacts of weather events with adequate back-up power for cooling and other critical loads. The property will center the lived experience of older adults through a series of collaborative art pieces co-created by residents and their families, which will be installed in prominent locations throughout the lobby and building.
3. Create housing for veterans that focuses on resident health and reduced utility bills. To achieve this, we will develop a high-performance all-electric building with on-site renewable energy generation (photovoltaic panels with battery storage) to offset a significant portion of the property's energy load. By switching to an all-electric property, we will be eliminating combustion from the building, thereby improving resident indoor air quality and making the property safer to operate and maintain.

#### **Project Mission Statement**