

**Graduate Program in Urban Planning
School of Architecture and Urban Design
The University of Kansas**

UBPL 710
Introduction to Housing Policy
Fall, 2006

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HOUSING POLICY ASSESSMENT

This assignment involves the specification of the correct housing policies that might be followed in the city you have analyzed in the housing assessment problem earlier.

Each student is to prepare a brief memorandum suggesting the appropriate set of housing policies and programs that could be followed in order to respond to the housing market problems found through the earlier analysis.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment has been designed to address a set of concerns that are closely related to, but different from, those of the first assignment. These include:

1. Bridging the gap between the theoretical study of housing policies and the application of policies to real world housing market conditions.
2. Organizing the student's review of the housing policies covered in the course both in terms of the target populations and in terms of the market conditions for which a policy is well suited.
3. Continuing to practice the preparation of concise professional reports dealing with planning topics.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE STUDY

The housing market analyzed in the earlier assignment shall be used in this assignment in order to make some general determinations of the correct housing strategies for that market. In the form of a concise memorandum or report, each student should address the housing market conditions that were found in the prior assignment and use them in the selection of a desirable set of housing programs appropriate to the types of problems found.

The memorandum or report should address:

- The problems of the market for owner occupied housing.
- The problems of the market for rental housing.
- Where appropriate, separate analysis should be made for any minority or special needs groups such as the frail elderly or female-headed households.
- Specifically, identify where production programs appear to be needed and where voucher style programs appear to be needed.
- Identify any need for new construction versus rehabilitation where production programs are suggested.
- Identify the extent to which programs are needed to assist low- and moderate-income homebuyers and whether these programs should involve production of additional units or draw upon the existing market.

Care should be taken to identify the range of program responses that can be made. Identify the set of alternatives available. Defend the choices made as well as the selections not made. Some programs operate without benefit of local selection or intervention. These include tax benefits to homeowners or secondary mortgage market activities. What might be their impact? Where possible, use specific figures, statistics or other numerical comparisons to substantiate your conclusions.

Comment upon the limitations of your analysis at the citywide level. How might this analysis change if the analysis could be made at the level of individual neighborhoods?

REQUIREMENTS OF THE FINAL PRESENTATION

Each student shall prepare a memorandum that outlines the housing policy recommendations that they are making. This may take the form of a separate memorandum from the first assignment. This assignment may also take the form of a revision of the first assignment, elaborating upon the policy strategies that should be taken in response to the market needs assessments found. (This approach will approximate a Consolidated Plan that may be of greater interest to a prospective employer later.) Independent of the approach taken, please attach the original graded copy of the first assignment.

All assignments should be submitted on or before the due date in the course syllabus.