



Howard County

HOUSING



MIHU Report

December 2015

Department of Housing and Community Development

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Welcome to the MIHU Monthly Report. The report is posted monthly on the County website at www.howardcountymd.gov (click on “Departments – Housing and Community Development”).

The MIHU Program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in specific zoning districts to sell or rent a portion of the dwelling units to households of moderate income. MIHUs are sold or rented through Howard County Housing at affordable prices and rents. MIHUs are interspersed throughout each development and residents enjoy all of the amenities in the community.

A household of moderate income is defined as one whose household income does not exceed 80% of the Howard County median income for purchasers and 60% of the Howard County median income for renters. The Howard County median income for 2015 is \$109,476. All types of dwelling units are available for purchase or rent, from apartment-style dwellings and condominiums, to townhouses and single-family detached dwellings. The purchase price and rental rate for each type of MIHU is calculated according to an affordability formula established by the MIHU regulations. MIHU prices are set twice a year. Applications for the program can be obtained during open enrollment periods at the Howard County Housing office, by calling (410) 313-6318, option 4, or online at www.howardcountymd.gov/MIHU.

MIHU pricing and standards will change on January 1, 2016. The Housing and Community Development Board approved the new pricing standards at their meeting on December 10, 2015. Rental communities with MIHU apartments received the new pricing after the meeting so that they could prepare for lease renewals after January 2016. The new rents have decreased slightly from 2015 because the median income fell to \$107,490. The new pricing schedules are available on housing’s website at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/mihudevelopers.htm>.

January is an open enrollment month for the MIHU homeownership program. An MIHU information workshop is scheduled at 6 p.m. on January 21, 2016, at the Columbia Gateway building. The workshop is free and open to the public. Applications and additional information can be found at the housing office, online, by email or by phone. Rental applications are accepted year round on a first-come, first-serve basis at the rental communities that offer MIHU apartments. Visit our website for a list of participating rental communities.

In 2015, the MIHU homeownership program awarded homes to 37 new households bringing the total number of MIHU homeownership units awarded since 2007 to 183. The MIHU rental program added 98 new units and increased the total number of affordable rental units to 532. The Department appreciates the relationship with developers and new homebuilders that participated in the program and helped increase affordable housing opportunities for families in Howard County last year.

Plans are underway for the 10th Annual Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair. The fair will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at Howard High School. Exhibitors will receive information packets this month. Save the date cards will be mailed out in January. More details to follow.

Kelly A. Cimino
Chief of Housing Opportunities Programs

MIHU HOMEOWNERSHIP

MIHU buyers are under contract and awaiting completion of their new homes in the following communities: Howard Square in Elkridge (3) and Oxford Square in Hanover (1).

There were 2 MIHU closings at Howard Square in December. The Housing Commission purchased 1 unit at Howard Square in December to keep it in the program. The unit will be resold to an MIHU household in an upcoming lottery. Three (3) units at Howard Square, four (4) units at Dorset Gardens and six (6) units at Oxford Square are currently in priority periods. Lotteries will be scheduled to award the units in the coming months.

Pending MIHU agreements or amendments:

Oxford Square - Amendment to the existing MIHU agreements are pending review. The builder wants to relocate some of the MIHU lots to model types that are better suited for MIHU buyers.

Homeownership unit activity for December 2015:

Development	Status	Total Units	MIHU Required	LIHU Required	Awarded	Pending
Howard Square	UC	413	55	0	28	3
Oxford Square	UC	197	31	0	13	1

MIHU program activity for closed homeownership transactions is noted here:

Development	Status	Total Units	MIHUs Required	LIHUs Required	Awarded	Pending	Closed 2007-2014	Closed 2015
Belmont Station Townhomes	C	110	17		17	0	17	0
Cherry Tree Townhomes	C	110	17		17	0	17	0
Dorset Gardens at Blue Stream	UC	230	44		14	0	14	0
Elkridge Crossing Townhomes**	PC/C	200	21		4	0	4	0
Elkridge Crossing Condos	PC/C	64	10		10	0	10	0
Ellicott Crossing Townhomes*	UC	154	16		15	0	4	11
Fox Hunt Estates	C	32	4		4	0	2	2
Gatherings at Ellicott Mills**	C	127	10	1	7	0	7	0
Gatherings at Jefferson Place**	C	135	14		9	0	9	0
Guilford Mews Townhomes**	C	26	3		0	0	0	0
Howard Square Townhomes*	UC	413	55		28	3	13	12
Jones Station**	C	22	3		0	0	0	0
Legacy at Cherry Tree Condos	C	152	4	3	7	0	4	3
Oxford Square*	UC	197	31		13	1	3	9
Riverwalk Townhomes	C	58	6		6	0	6	0
Shipley's Grant Townhomes	UC	332	14		12	0	12	0
Simpson Mill	C	150	0	5	5	0	5	0
Village Towns Townhomes**	C	259	23		14	0	14	0
TOTALS		2771	292	9	182	4	141	37

*updated December 2015

**alternative compliance or released units

MIHU RENTALS

Rental MIHUs are currently offered at Alta at Regency Crest (Ellicott City, age-restricted), Ashbury Courts (Laurel), Belmont Station (Elkridge), Millers Grant (Ellicott City), Mission Place (Jessup), Orchard Meadows (Ellicott City), Orchard Park (Ellicott City), Penniman Park (Elkridge) and Woodfield Oxford Square (Hanover). MIHU rental applications are available year round and offered on a first come, first serve basis at participating communities.

Miller's Grant, a continuing care community for residents age 62 or better, is under construction and accepting rental applications for apartments that should be ready for occupancy in 2016. For more information, applicants can stop by the rental office at 9531 Frederick Road in Ellicott City, call (877)800-7151 or visit www.millersgrant.org.

MIHU rental activity for December 2015:

Development	Status	Total Units	On-site MIHU Requirement	Pending	Rented	Market Rent**	MIHU Rent*	Difference
Aladdin South	C	39	39	0	39			
Alta at Regency Crest	C	150	15	0	15	\$2235	\$1268	\$967
Annapolis Junction Town	UC	416	32	32	0			
Ashbury Courts	C	156	24	3	21	\$1560	\$1268	\$292
Belmont Station	C	208	32	0	32	\$1828	\$1302	\$526
Burgess Mill Station	C	198	20	0	20			
Columbia Landing	C	300	60	0	60			
Deep Falls	PC	60	60	60	0			
Ellicott Gardens	C	106	103	0	103			
Howard Square	PC	654	69	69	0			
Miller's Grant*	UC	286	29	29	0			
Mission Place	C	366	61	0	61	\$1690	\$1268	\$422
Monarch Mills	C	269	27	0	27			
Oakland Place	C	16	2	0	2	\$2000	\$1606	\$394
Orchard Meadows	C	150	15	0	15	\$1598	\$1287	\$311
Orchard Park	C	40	4	4	0	\$1695	\$1287	\$408
Penniman Park	C	186	19	0	19	\$1685	\$1287	\$398
Parkview at Emerson	C	80	80	0	80			
Riverwatch	PC	84	42	42	0			
Woodfield Oxford Square	UC	248	38	0	38	\$2000	\$1268	\$732
TOTALS		4012	771	239	532			

*updated December 2015

**for 2 bedroom unit – Revised July 2015

MIHU RESALE

A resale request was received from an Elkridge Crossing homeowner. The 2-bedroom condo will be offered to prequalified 1- and 2-person households in the database. Because most new developments offer 3 bedroom units, lottery drawings for smaller household sizes are less frequent.

Previous MIHU resale activity (only communities with resale activity are shown here):

Development	Status	First owner	Second Owner	Third Owner
Belmont Station	C	17	0	0
Cherry Tree Townhomes	C	17	2	0
Elkridge Crossing Condos	C	10	6	1
Legacy at Cherry Tree Condos	C	5	1	0
Shipley's Grant	C	12	2	0
Village Towns	C	14	3	0

MIHU RELEASE

The MIHU regulations offer developers the options for alternative methods of program compliance. Council Bills 34 and 35 defined alternative methods of compliance so developers and builders can make decisions about their projects in advance of the site development process. Allowing alternative methods of compliance can help the Department keep units in the program rather than releasing them at a later time.

Previous MIHU release activity (only communities with release activity are shown here):

Development	Status	Units Released	Reason	2009-2013	2014	2015
Dorset Gardens Townhomes	C	10	MIHU price	10	0	
Elkridge Crossing Townhomes	C	4	Market conditions	4	0	
Gatherings at Ellicott Mills	C	4	Age-restricted	0	4	
Gatherings at Jefferson Place	C	5	Age-restricted	5	0	
Guilford Mews Townhomes	C	3	Age-restricted	3	0	
Jones Station	C	3	Age-restricted	3	0	
Village Towns Townhomes	C	2	Market conditions	2	0	
TOTAL		31		27	4	0
Key PC - Pending Construction/ UC – Under Construction/ C - Complete						

*updated December 2015

FEE-IN-LIEU

One method of alternative compliance is a fee-in-lieu option. Developers of single family, detached dwellings may pay a fee-in-lieu instead of providing MIHUs in the following zoning districts: RC, RR, R-ED, R-20, R-12, and R-SC. Developers of age-restricted, planned senior communities, single family attached dwellings in R-H-ED and mixed use developments in MXD are also eligible for the fee-in-lieu option. Developers are instructed to contact Housing for an MIHU agreement when they receive a Technically Complete letter from Planning and Zoning. The fee-in-lieu for each project must be paid before the first use and occupancy permit is issued.

The County prepared and executed fee in lieu agreements with 26 developers for a total of 273 new units in 2015. The County's Office of Inspections and Permits will collect the fee in lieu. The Department is tracking this information to comply with the legislation's reporting requirements and to determine potential revenue for future projects. An annual report of fee-in-lieu revenue and expenditures is required per Section 13.402C.3.8 of the County Code and will be provided to the County Council by February 1, 2016.

Development	Zoning	New lots	Agreement Signed
Gatherings at Ellicott's Retreat	POR	162	pending
King Property	R-12	3	pending
Harvey S. Reed	R-20	1	12/18/15
Brian Smith property	R-20	2	12/29/15
Van Stone property	R-20	1	12/18/15