

HOUSING

The need for workforce housing in our region in support of the expanding economy is growing. Regional employers are unable to fill job positions due to the lack of available housing in the community. Additionally, median home prices are outpacing wages making rent and homeownership out of reach for many residents. Our region must increase its housing supply and offerings to keep pace with workforce needs.

Key Findings from Our Valley Our Future Housing Solutions Survey illustrates the risk to employers and the housing struggles facing their employees:

- **Employee Base Relocation Risk:** The survey found 45 percent of the respondents (1,700) saying they had considered relocating within the past year due to high cost of housing combined with severely limited supply.
- **Affordability of Housing:** 46 percent indicated they are spending more than 30 percent of household income on housing (30 percent is deemed “affordable”) and 23 percent are spending more than 40 percent of household income on housing.
- **Rental Affordability:** Among renters, 46 percent reported paying more than they could afford.

Guiding Principles

- » The Chamber supports the development of middle-market housing as it provides the most significant housing opportunity for the area’s population.
- » The Chamber supports innovative housing types that promote density of development in areas where zoning will support this activity.
- » The Chamber supports development of uniform regulations across the region for land-use planning and development for the purpose of facilitating cohesive development.