

**Dear Community Housing Stakeholders,**

The shortage of housing in Emmet County is well studied and documented in analyses by Networks Northwest, the Home Builders Association of Michigan, the City of Petoskey, the Frey Foundation, United Ways of Michigan, the Center for Michigan, the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, and others. Housing shortages affect area residents at all income levels, but are particularly acute for middle- to low-income employees of businesses in the Petoskey-Harbor Springs area. Housing shortages are among the most significant constraints faced by area businesses to hiring and retaining employees.

The barriers to constructing more, affordable housing for our workforce are numerous and complex. The Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership, a group of individuals and organization representatives from a cross-section of our housing “community”, seeks to bring together key members of this community—land owners, developers, construction companies, financial institutions, property managers, nonprofit agencies, local governments, community college/other training institutions, realtors, major employers, foundations—to identify ways to address these barriers so we can, collectively, make significant progress on this issue.

As part of this effort, **the Housing Partnership is sponsoring a Community Dialogue on Workforce Housing on Monday, April 22, 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm at the Library Conference Room at North Central Michigan College.** The objectives of this Community Dialogue are to:

- *Present data on the current workforce housing situation in Emmet County;*
- *Describe the Housing Partnership and its areas of focus;*
- *Solicit ideas from the community on how to address housing shortages and affordability challenges; and*
- *Identify additional individuals, businesses and organizations interested in joining efforts to address these issues.*

Participation in the Community Dialogue is open to any interested member of our community. In addition, **the Partnership would especially welcome your participation in this event.** Please register at <http://www.petoskeychamber.com/events/details/community-dialogue-on-affordable-housing-shortage-19373> by April 15, 2019. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Community Dialogue or the Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Scott Smith  
Chair, Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership