

## Housing needs input sought Community asked to share with consultants

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Thursday, 06 March 2014 15:20 -

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Get out the lumber, hammers and nails.

Gothenburg has been identified as needing up to 66 new housing units by 2019 and the input of the community is needed.

Hanna:Keelan Associates of Lincoln, a community planning and research consulting firm, has also identified housing potential for an estimated 10 units in downtown Gothenburg.

Gothenburg citizens are asked to discuss current and future housing needs at the Gothenburg Public Library next Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Hanna:Keelan Associates will conduct sessions in Gothenburg and also in Cozad and Lexington.

Dawson Area Development is doing a housing study and has hired the firm.

So far, the Dawson County Area Housing Study is showing a need to produce more than 360 new housing units throughout the county and in Elwood and Eustis in the next five years, according to Jen Wolf, DAD director.

“These are preliminary numbers but it reflects a stable population base, good local economy and the desire of area residents to live in new owner and rental housing,” Wolf said. “New and modern housing stock in the area will match, perfectly, with the future economic initiatives of DAD.”

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Wolf said new housing stock will stimulate the building industry and provide business and industry with an inventory of housing for the local workforce.

In the next five years, DAD officials said Cozad has been identified as needing up to 64 new housing units and Lexington 185.

Smaller communities such as Elwood, Eustis and Overton are also showing demand for new housing, targeted primarily toward working families and elderly households.

Hanna:Keelan has also identified housing potential estimates for downtowns in Cozad (14 new units) and Lexington (22 units.)

Community planner Tim Keelan said upper story housing, both owner and rental, would be a good fit with each community's downtown revitalization projects.

Gothenburg is developing a downtown assessment plan and could receive \$350,000 in grant money for downtown revitalization projects.

The housing study is funded by a program grant from the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and matching funds from DAD.

For more information, contact Deb Jensen at deb

@dawsonareadevelopment.com or by calling 308-217-0005.