



Filling the Housing Gap in Rural Communities

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) is partnering with the Rural Ontario Institute and tech company, Itery, to build a streamlined digital tool to fill the housing information gap: The Rural Housing Information System. This locally-driven tool will support municipalities and builders in the planning and development of affordable housing. It also aims to support not-for-profit organizations in implementing housing strategies in rural communities.

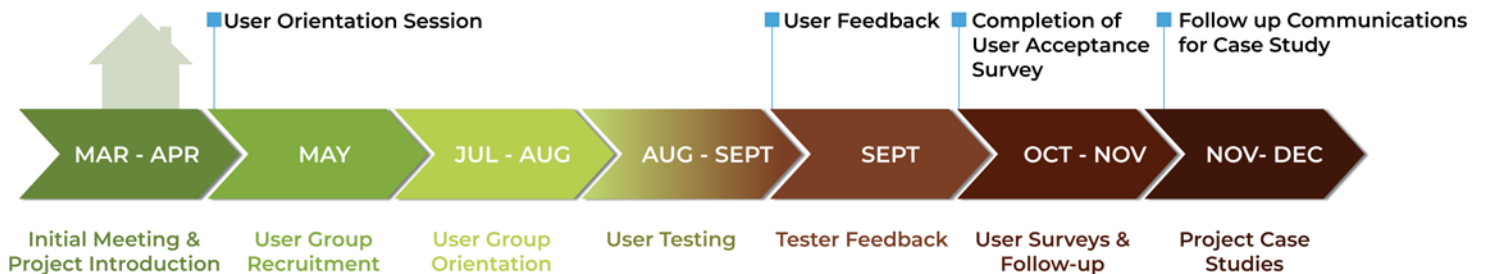
The data-driven, outcomes focused solution will harness data in an automated and easy to use public dashboard including:

- ▶ demographic trends (population, growth, age and income)
- ▶ average home and market rental information
- ▶ available zoned land
- ▶ building costs (development charges and park-land fees)
- ▶ available incentives like municipal grants or loans
- ▶ housing assets, amenities, and local organizations available for collaboration.

The tool will centralize and streamline data from many different sources. A key project focus is to automate the collection of data from publicly available sources. ROI will also work with municipalities to collect the data from communities that may be missing or misrepresented in government and public databases. This will help deliver accurate, up-to-date data and information that can be used to facilitate access to provincial and federal funding for affordable housing development.

ROI is conducting user testing for this digital tool during 2022 to improve tool functionality, using feedback from municipal groups, private stakeholders. The user testing of the Rural Housing Information System will involve deliverables and scheduled dates along the following schedule:

Project Timeline



The Rural Housing Information System project is funded through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Supply Challenge, with rollout of the tool expected for the Spring of 2023.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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