# Center for COMMUNITY PROGRESS

### Ready to Tackle Vacant Properties in Your Community?

Technical Assistance Consultation from the Center for Community Progress



The Center for Community Progress is the leading national organization providing expert, high-impact technical assistance to end and prevent entrenched vacancy so that all people can live in safe, affordable, resilient, and equitable neighborhoods.

If you're ready to take a comprehensive approach to ending systemic vacancy in your community, we can help you get there.

# What is Technical Assistance?

Technical assistance from Community Progress is a consultation service where we provide expert guidance and analysis to government officials and decision makers tailored to the needs of your community. Our team combines decades of legal, planning, and strategic expertise to **assess** the state of vacant property in your community, craft **recommendations** for policy and practice changes, and help you **build long-term capacity** so implementation succeeds.

Addressing vacancy cannot be solved overnight. What sets Community Progress apart is that our technical assistance team **builds relationships** to make sure local partners have the ongoing support they need to create long-term solutions to equitably prevent and reduce entrenched vacancy.

### **Our Services**

The technical assistance team at Community Progress has expertise in a variety of topics including:

- Comprehensive assessment and strategy development to support vacant property revitalization;
- Property data collection and neighborhood market analysis;
- Strategic code enforcement;
- Delinquent property tax enforcement;
- Land banks and land banking; and
- Vacant land maintenance and reuse strategies.

We center racial equity in all we do, and design solutions to vacancy and deterioration within a framework of equitable community development so communities can realize goals like resiliency, healthy and affordable housing, and safe neighborhoods.

We assess your existing policies and practices that affect vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated (VAD) properties. By analyzing the state of VAD properties in your community, conducting an initial assessment of your policies, or calculating the true cost of VAD properties on your municipality, we can help you understand the scope of the problem and which local and state laws, strategies and practices are working—and which aren't.

We recommend policy and practice changes your community can implement to equitably, effectively, and efficiently tackle vacant properties. From drafting specific ordinances and laws aimed at addressing problem properties, to comprehensive strategic planning, we tailor every recommendation to your unique needs.

We build your capacity so you can see policy change through to implementation by delivering locally based, topic-specific presentations, trainings, and customized resources. We can coach leaders and staff, and produce top-tier publications that share best practices for tackling vacancy to inform the field.



## Ready to end systemic vacancy?

Community Progress has helped more than 300 communities across the country in their pursuit to reduce vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties. Contact us for more information about our services and pricing. Thanks to the generous support of our funders, we also may be able to offer reducedcost technical assistance support related to property tax and code enforcement systems for specific communities. Inquire to learn more.

Email us about your community's needs and challenges at info@communityprogress.org and learn more at communityprogress.org/ services/technical-assistance. The technical assistance provided by the Center for Community Progress helped energize and pull together several initiatives that were underway within the City of Dallas. Their work proved to us that we were on the right path and, most importantly, provided us with tangible recommendations that we have implemented to take the all-important next step. The Blight Task Force is now a living, working, functioning group!

Kris Sweckard, Director of Code Compliance for the City of Dallas, Texas

#### About the Center for Community Progress

The mission of Center for Community Progress is to foster strong, equitable communities where vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties are transformed into assets for neighbors and neighborhoods. Founded in 2010, Community Progress is the leading national, nonprofit resource for urban, suburban, and rural communities seeking to address the full cycle of property revitalization. The organization fulfills its mission by nurturing strong leadership and supporting systemic reforms. Community Progress works to ensure that public, private, and community leaders have the knowledge and capacity to create and sustain change. It also works to ensure that all communities have the policies, tools, and resources they need to support the effective, equitable reuse of vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties. More information is available at communityprogress.org

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