Sustainable and Affordable Housing Framework
for DHVSU Community

Policy Objective

To ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and inclusive housing for students, faculty, and staff within academic settings, fostering an equitable and thriving academic environment while promoting sustainability and community well-being.

Key Standards

- ✓ **Affordability:** Provide housing options that accommodate the financial needs of diverse academic community members.
- ✓ **Sustainability:** Integrate green building practices and renewable energy solutions into campus housing.
- ✓ **Inclusivity:** Ensure housing policies support students and staff from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and physical ability backgrounds.
- ✓ **Accessibility:** Prioritize housing options near campus facilities and public transportation to reduce costs and improve accessibility.
- ✓ **Resilience:** Develop disaster-resilient and climate-adaptive housing solutions within academic communities.

Policy Strategies

1. Expanding Affordable On-Campus Housing

- **Student Housing Development:** Allocate resources to build and maintain affordable student residences with tiered pricing structures based on income or financial aid eligibility.
- **Faculty and Staff Housing Programs:** Create housing specifically for academic staff and early-career faculty to reduce financial barriers and improve recruitment and retention.
- **Mixed-Income Housing:** Design housing complexes that integrate a range of income-based options to foster diverse and inclusive communities.

2. Housing Financial Support

- **Subsidies for Low-Income Students:** Offer housing grants or rental discounts for economically disadvantaged students.

- **Emergency Housing Assistance:** Establish a housing assistance fund for students facing unexpected financial hardships.
- **Rent-Controlled Housing:** Implement rent controls for university-managed accommodations to prevent housing inflation.

3. Sustainable Housing Practices

- **Green Construction:** Ensure all new housing developments meet energy efficiency standards, incorporate renewable energy sources, and use sustainable materials.
- **Energy Retrofits:** Upgrade existing housing facilities to reduce energy consumption and operating costs.
- **Zero-Waste Housing:** Implement waste segregation, recycling, and composting programs within housing complexes.

4. Inclusive and Accessible Housing

- **Disability-Friendly Housing:** Ensure all housing meets accessibility standards, with accommodations for individuals with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.
- **Culturally Inclusive Designs:** Incorporate diverse cultural needs into housing design, such as communal cooking areas for international students.
- **Family Housing Options:** Provide affordable family housing for students and staff with dependents.

5. Community-Centric Design

- **Collaborative Living Spaces:** Encourage co-living and shared spaces to foster community engagement and reduce housing costs.
- **Proximity to Campus Services:** Design housing within walking or cycling distance to classrooms, libraries, and dining facilities to minimize transportation needs.
- **Community Gardens and Green Spaces:** Include shared green spaces to promote mental health, recreation, and sustainability.

6. Resilience and Climate Adaptation

- **Disaster-Prepared Housing:** Design housing to withstand natural disasters, such as storms and earthquakes, and provide emergency shelters when needed.
- **Climate-Friendly Practices:** Encourage rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting, and energy-efficient appliances in housing units.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Affordability Metrics:** Regularly evaluate housing affordability through surveys and cost analyses relative to the academic community's income levels.
- **Sustainability Audits:** Conduct periodic energy and waste audits to ensure adherence to green standards.
- **Resident Feedback:** Use feedback from housing residents to identify gaps in inclusivity, accessibility, and quality of services.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Track metrics such as occupancy rates, financial aid distribution, and carbon footprint reduction.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased availability of affordable, safe, and sustainable housing for students, faculty, and staff.
2. Reduced housing insecurity and financial stress within the academic community.
3. Enhanced sense of community through inclusive and accessible housing.
4. Improved environmental sustainability and reduced campus housing carbon footprint.
5. Strengthened academic productivity and well-being due to better living conditions.