



GROUNDED SOLUTIONS NETWORK

strong communities
from the ground up

Stewardship Standards for Affordable Homeownership Self-Assessment Instructions

Overview

Users should read the [Stewardship Standards](#) **before** completing [this assessment](#). You may also want to have access to the Standards for reference while you complete this assessment. Users should allow approximately 45 to 60 minutes to complete the full assessment. Note that while you may complete the assessment for only a portion of the six standards, at this time the assessment does not allow users to update or amend previous responses or save an incomplete assessment if you need to return to it later.

Instructions

Step 1: Review each standard and its associated practices and select the status that best describes the stage your program is at right now. *Each practice in this assessment will have 2-3 options, along with a "not applicable" option.*

Step 2: Assign a priority rating to indicate how important it is for your program to address each practice in the future. *This assessment includes the option of long-term, mid-term, short-term or not a goal. Please note that if you select "not a goal" this practice will not appear in your final report; we recommend selecting "not a goal" only if your program has no intention of implementing a particular practice.*

Step 3: Click submit and you will receive a copy of your report by email within one business day.

Next Steps

After the assessment is completed, your report will provide a big-picture view of how well your program conforms to the Stewardship Standards and which practices you should implement to ensure future success.

If practices have been thoughtfully prioritized, the report will give you a road map for how to improve management and performance. It may also reveal some "red flags" if there are critical practices that have never been implemented. Even high-performing programs are likely to discover some areas for improvement.

Helpful Terms & Definitions

Standard: A standard is a requirement, established by general consent, which serves as a model of quality of attainment for the industry. Within the Stewardship Standards, standards are identified as: "essential standards," which are considered fundamental to good program performance or "optimal standards", which address best practices for the highest performing programs.



Although most programs in the early stages of development will not yet have reached optimal standards, the optimal standards can still help those programs create goals to move towards over time.

Stewardship: Stewardship is the work that homeownership programs do with their buyers before and after they purchase their homes to ensure that they are well-prepared for homeownership, financially responsible, and able to maintain their property. Stewardship helps protect the community (or public) investment in an affordable home by monitoring the physical asset and enforcing program requirements over the long term.

Practice: A practice is a measurable or verifiable course of action performed to attain the standard. Each essential or optimal standard listed in the Stewardship Standards has between one and three practices associated with it.

