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Create a local directory of community services

One way to prevent the problem of vacant and dilapidated properties is to prevent them from happening in the first place. A simple way to begin a prevention strategy is to let owners/renters know of the programs that might help them keep their homes or businesses by distributing a directory of services.

Here are examples of services and information that you might want to include:

- International Property Maintenance Code (if adopted by your municipality)
- Municipal ordinances relating to property ownership (accumulation of trash, derelict vehicles, other locally-enforced code requirements, length of time triggering vacancy) and relevant fines, criminal charges
- Registration of rental properties, registration of vacant properties, registration of foreclosed properties (forms or contact information)
- A listing of local demolition or construction contractors, towing companies
- A listing of local banks and contact information
- Home repair and rental rehabilitation assistance grant/loan programs if available
- Fire department
- Police department
- Building department (permits)