What is MissouriUD?

In 2013-2014, stakeholders in Missouri involved in housing design, disability advocacy, social services, government policy and real estate development came together to solidify the best practices for universal design so that the marketplace could identify UD and better enjoy its benefits.

UD is about providing an affordable, livable space that everyone can use without barriers to access for themselves and the community, for today and in the future.

A universal design home may look like any other, but can discreetly serve all occupants living independently, even as people’s needs and abilities change.

As builders incorporate UD principles, housing becomes a more sustainable, independent and long term option for millions.

Adopting a MissouriUD standard supports the marketplace as it changes. If realtors can identify UD, then appraisers can track it, bankers can value it, builders will build it, and consumers can find it. MissouriUD standardizes the basics and brands the best practices. The Governor's Council on Disability adopted the criteria and recommended it to the Missouri Housing Development Commission where it was also adopted.

**Goals:**

  1. Qualify and brand Missouri UD as a common, statewide Universal Design criteria that can help meet the housing needs of all Missourians, including those persons, families and friends affected by disabilities and aging – particularly in publicly-funded, low income, multiple-family developments.

  2. Build acceptance and establish market proof that in new housing development, when 100% of the housing is UD, the added cost is negligible (11/2%). The cost for UD is more than offset by increased value, sustainable tenancy and fewer days on the market.

  3. Provide a model with Missouri UD for universal design best practices for funding sources, real estate professionals, appraisers, builders, and consumers that is branded (identifiable), reliable and consistent across the state.

  4. Create public awareness that UD homes are available, more desirable and more flexible to meet the long term housing needs of all Missourians.

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**Vision:**

Housing should permit everyone to live independently, to the fullest extent possible.

This is a win-win proposition for builders, consumers, taxpayers and the community.

UD reduces the social and personal cost of aging and disability, adds to the diversity of a community, and builds value in our housing stock.