

## Deliverable 0: Client Kick Off Scrum Report

### **1. What is the project focus/overall goal?**

Collecting information on small landlords who accept housing vouchers would provide renters with a valuable source of information regarding where to seek housing. To this end, our project aims to make use of available municipal data concerning rented properties in the Greater Boston area — we would like to organize this data in such a fashion that owner-occupied properties as well as properties belonging to non-commercial entities are properly accounted for in an overall assessment of Boston's affordable housing stock.

### **2. What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?**

Datasets regarding housing in the Boston area. From the datasets we will learn which owners are associated with openings, how many units there are, price of units, geographic distribution, and demographic information. The most important information to gain from datasets will be that of the distribution of landlords in/not in affordable housing programs.

### **3. What are potential limitations of the project?**

The data with which we are working is liable to change constantly as landlords continue to make daily decisions regarding their housing stock. Much of the available datasets are collected in bulk and capture the state of the housing market at particular moments in time: as a consequence, any work completed over the duration of this semester would require routine maintenance to remain useful. Additionally, we don't have guarantees about the quality of the datasets we find, so they may be poorly collected or biased in certain ways. For example, we imagine that small landlords are likely to be less rigorous in their reporting practices than larger commercial entities, further complicating data collection. Finally, whether a landlord accepts vouchers is not the only factor that tenants consider when looking for housing: a tool of this nature is most useful when it takes into account the needs of sub-group beneficiaries (LGBTQ, formerly incarcerated, supportive housing, etc.)

### **4. Why is this project important or Why did you choose this project?**

This project is important in terms of its impact on the broader community: we would be widening the array of affordable housing options available to tenants as well as enabling them to connect with smaller landlords. This is not only helpful to tenants, but to landlords as well in terms of their ability to effectively advertise available units.

### **5. What are your team's next steps? (include action items/tasks)**

- Set up team weekly meetings to discuss project progress and problems.
- Set up bi-weekly meetings with the client to discuss our progress and ask for feedback.
- Collect data needed for the project.
- Clean collected data and keep important variables.
- Pull all residential properties from the parcel database for Boston & Identify which are owner occupied and how many units for each property.