

Practicality

Civic Need

Does the project address a civic need?

1 2 3 4 5

Original

Is the project original?
Has this been implemented before?

1 2 3 4 5

Execution

Accessible

How inclusive is this project?
Who can help out or benefit?

1 2 3 4 5

Sustainable

Will this project be able to reach a
point of completion?

1 2 3 4 5

We created this project to address the continuing trend of Austin homeowners and renters being priced out of their neighborhoods. This issue also caught the attention of the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities, who recommended that "Austin must take aggressive steps to ensure housing for all its residents, not only those newly arriving, but also the longtime residents."

While many resources exist to help Austin residents manage their housing costs, there was previously no easy way for residents to identify the programs that were a good fit. Furthermore, existing resource sites are not accessible, mobile friendly, or easy to filter. Data shows that about one quarter (23%) of families below the median income level and one third (33%) of those below the poverty level rely on mobile-only Internet access. With this in mind, we created "Keep My Casa," a mobile-first responsive web app that connects residents in financial distress with programs to help them stay in their homes.

Let's say I'm 72 year old homeowner. Since retiring a few years ago, I live on a fixed income. In the meantime, property values in my neighborhood have doubled in the past seven years. My property taxes have skyrocketed past the limits of my modest budget. I decide to use Keep My Casa to see if there are services that could help in my situation. I can easily select that I am a **homeowner** struggling to pay for **property taxes**. By providing my **income** (\$27,000) and **family size** (1) and submitting a couple of details about my **unique situation** (over 65), I get a personalized list of several local resources. Now I can easily call or review the websites to see more details about taking advantage of these programs.

Every bit of this project was created from scratch this weekend. We have a functional database, backend logic, and a UI that is well on its way to WCAG standards of accessibility. In the coming weeks, we plan to translate our content to make the app accessible to Spanish speakers.

**Additional closing remarks about how close to completion we are? Technologies used?
Anything else we want to hit?**