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## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

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### **Otsego County Planning Department Launches Housing Survey**

Cooperstown, NY –

The Otsego County Planning department is launching a housing survey to provide fresh information about how Otsego County residents perceive their housing conditions and housing needs.

The online survey, to be hosted on the county's web site at <http://www.otsegocounty.com> was announced by Karen Sullivan, Director of Otsego County's Department of Planning and Solid Waste:

“The purpose of this housing survey is to create a credible set of data regarding Otsego County housing conditions which can then inform future grant applications to public and private funding sources. This new survey information will help us articulate the priorities of county residents, in terms of housing, so that we can better target programs to address them. Governmental and other funding agencies expect local applicants to have current data to justify their funding requests but few area municipalities have the resources to develop this kind of assessment tool.”

The survey was developed in collaboration with Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc. (ORHA), a local not for profit organization that has served residents of Otsego County since 1984. The link to the survey is also available on the ORHA web site: [www.otsegoruralhousing.org](http://www.otsegoruralhousing.org).

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. It includes questions for both homeowners and renters, and touches on both current housing condition, e.g., the state of survey respondents' heating systems and plumbing, as well as prospective housing, accessibility, or home renovation needs.

All Otsego County residents are encouraged to complete the survey. Area employers, for whom affordable housing is a crucial human resources issue, are especially encouraged to bring this survey to the attention of their employees. Survey respondents have the option of including their email address to be eligible for a drawing to win one of several \$50 and \$25 gift cards. The window for completing the survey is April 20 through July 27, 2018.