

What the heck is an ADU? A new type of virus? A new university? No, ADU stands for Accessory Dwelling Unit. Or, accessory apartments. ADUs have been on ACEs radar for quite some time. On the development side, we tried unsuccessfully to add an accessory apartment to a home in Croton Falls. Later on, ACE applied for an accessory apartment program through New York State's AHC program. While there was interest, we could not identify specific houses to remediate for accessory homes. Prior to these recent attempts, Joan had long lobbied the county for an affordable housing program. The trick of a Westchester County program is that there are 43 municipalities in Westchester; 17 of which have legislation for accessory dwelling units/apartments. One of the recommendations of Westchester's 2019 Housing Needs Assessment was in favor of accessory dwelling units and the drafting of a model ordinance for municipalities to adopt. ACE hoped to have held a symposium in May 2020 which would have covered ADUS as a major part of Fitting IN. ADU's offer low impact, gentle development in increasing housing stock. The Covid 19 pandemic impeded our plans. However, in the fall, ACE was asked to put together a session on ADUS for Pace's land use leadership alliance. Several weeks ago we were able to curate/produce such a session with great speakers giving the national history and status of ADU legislation, by Moses Gates of RPA, and others with an in-depth knowledge of ADUs nationally, and presentations by Bill Brady of Westchester County who authored the model ordinance. We believe that the County ordinance is a good one, and we believe that ADUs offer solid solutions for a seniors housing, making homeownership more affordable, integrating neighborhoods. From our session at PACE and other gathered information we give you the following and, are posting the presentations on our website.