

Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative

Program Introduction



October 14th, 2025
City Council Working Session

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Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative

How do we create a community where wildfire doesn't define us—but where we define our resilience to it?

- Flagstaff sits in one of the most wildfire-prone areas in the country
- Protecting homes = protecting people, neighborhoods, and our future



Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative

This pilot program, led by the Flagstaff Fire Department Wildland Fire Management and Sustainability teams, will help residents:

- Learn how to protect their homes from wildfire
- Access tools, information, and grants
- Connect with neighbors for collaboration and support
- Strengthen neighborhood resilience



Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative

Engage residents on home hardening, defensible space, and evacuation preparation through personalized assessments and tailored recommendations.

Educate the community regarding the value of collective wildfire preparedness by connecting residents with neighborhood-level events, local contractors, and volunteer support.

Empower residents to act by providing resources that make wildfire resilience more accessible.



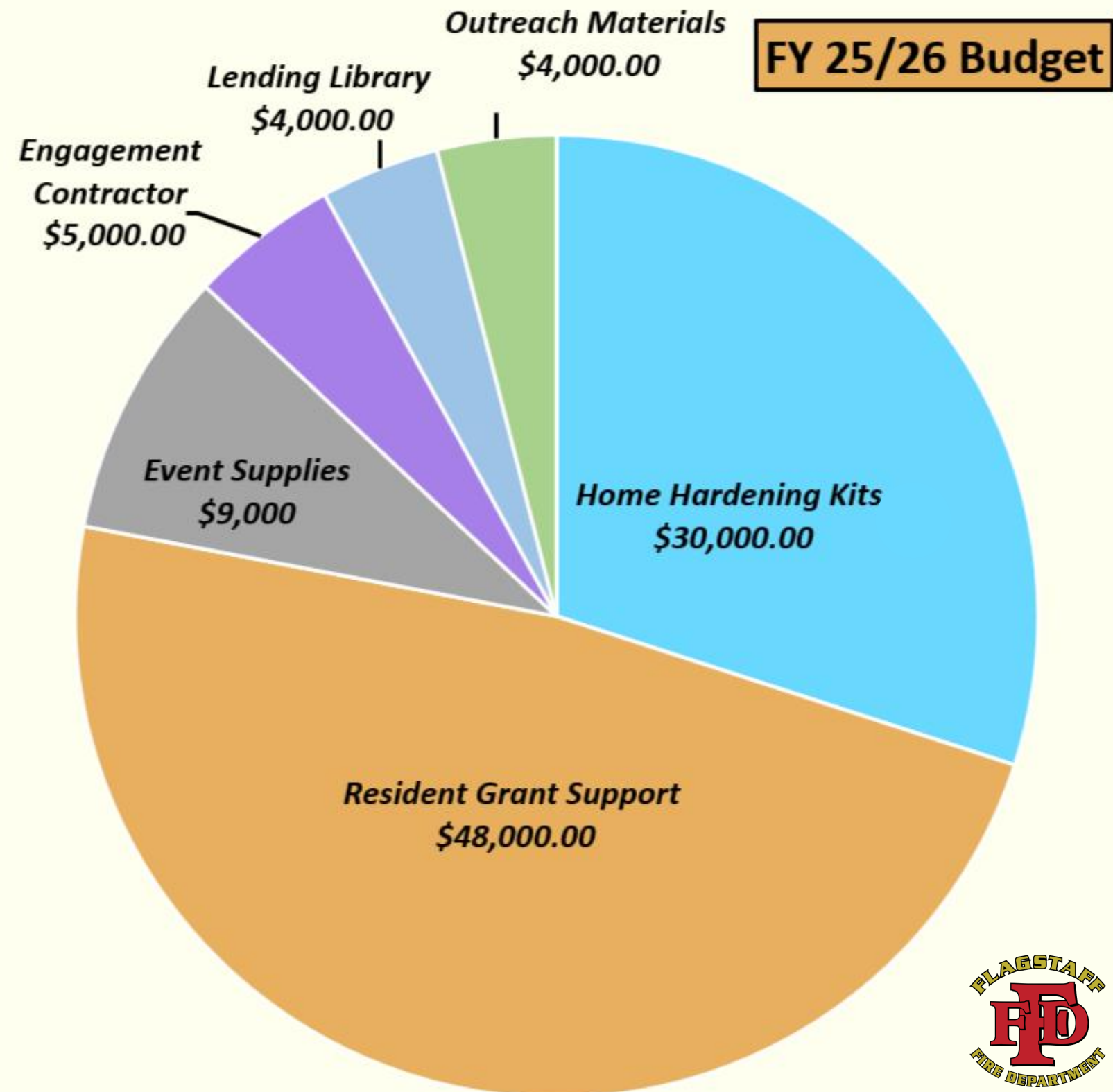
Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative

The Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative (WHRI) will include the following components:

1. Home Assessments
2. Home Hardening Kits
3. Community Events
4. Grant Support

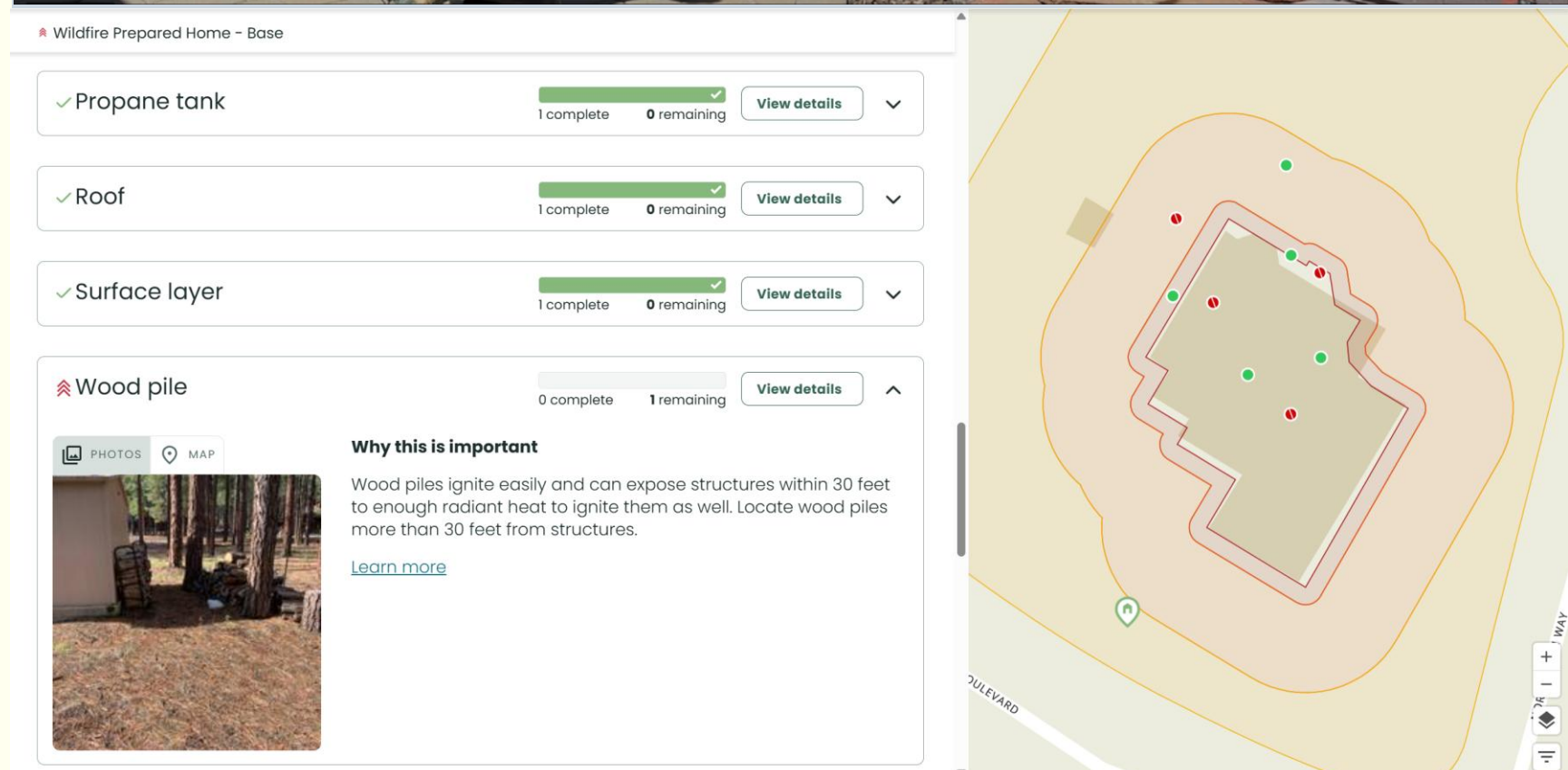
WHRI is open to all Flagstaff residents, whether they rent or own their homes.

The budget for FY25/26 is \$100,000



1. Home Assessments

- Conducted by trained staff from the Flagstaff Fire Department and Flagstaff Sustainability Office.
- Staff walk the property with the resident to identify wildfire vulnerabilities and recommended actions.
- Provide personalized, parcel-specific recommendations for defensible space and home hardening using the WUUI software package and individual expertise.



2. Home Hardening Kits

- Each participating household receives a kit with tools and materials to jumpstart wildfire preparedness.
- Help residents implement home hardening measures recommended during assessments.
- Kits incentivize regular upkeep of defensible space.

Kit Contents:

- Wildfire Preparedness Guide
- Program stickers
- Gloves
- Garbage bags for pine needles
- Collapsible rake
- Gutter cleaning hose attachment
- Loppers
- 1/8th” vent screening
- Metal shears



3. Community Events

- Seasonal community meetings regarding wildfire risk and resilience.
- Focus on wildfire risk reduction at neighborhood-level gatherings across Flagstaff.
- Promote **community engagement** and awareness of residential wildfire preparedness.



4. Grants for Contractor Services

- Small grants (up to \$600) allow residents with to hire local contractors for services like debris hauling, brush removal, and vent screen installation when volunteer support is unavailable or insufficient.
- Grants will prioritize community members with physical or financial need.
- Applicants must first conduct a Home Assessment.



Outreach Plan

Our outreach strategy is designed to prioritize communities located in fire pathways.

Outreach will consist of:

- **WRHI Website** – info hub to learn more and get involved
- **Community Events** – workshops and clean-up days
- **Direct Mailers** – clear info to high-risk homes
- **Partnerships** – Resilience Hubs and local groups
- **Door-to-Door** – personal engagement in priority areas
- **Social Media** – broad visibility and sign-up links

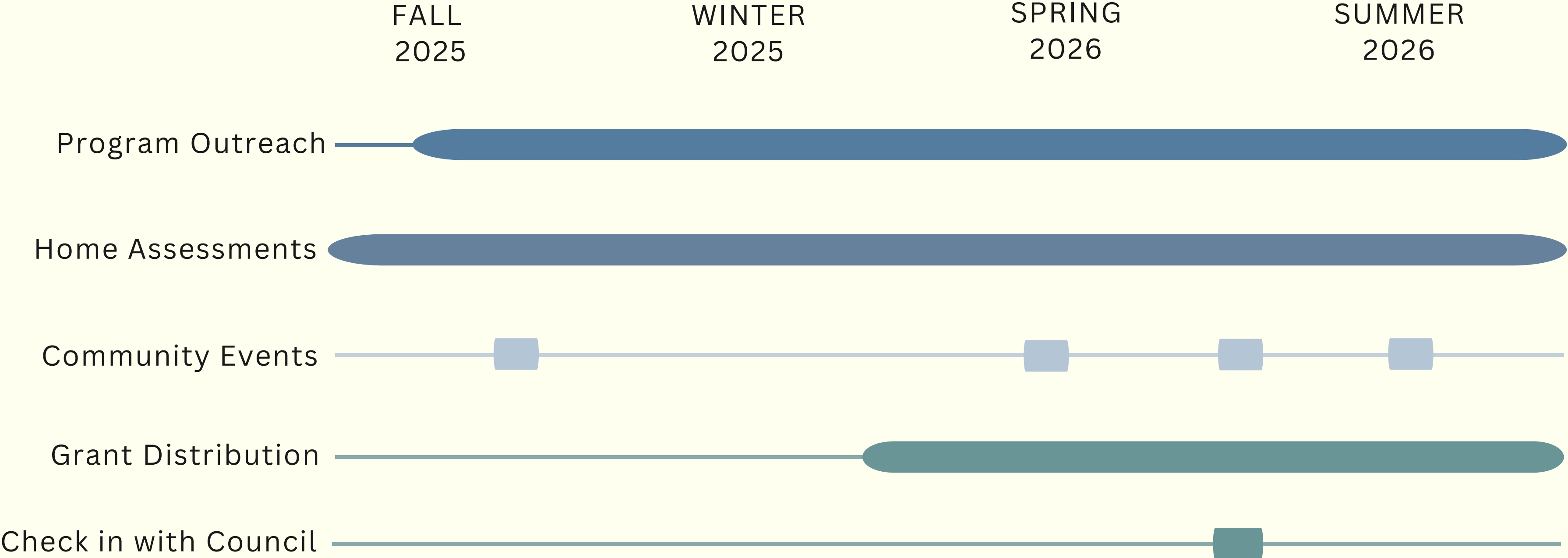


Fire Pathways

Fire pathways are the model-identified routes where wildfire is most likely to enter and spread into our community. By focusing on these pathways, we can better prioritize home hardening, defensible space, and neighborhood-level action to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire entering Flagstaff.



Timeline



Managing Expectations

- As a pilot program, we will **explore multiple strategies** to learn what is most impactful.
- Early outcomes will be **limited in scale**, but we are building systems, partnerships, and trust.
- Even though Flagstaff is ahead of many communities in tackling undesirable wildfire risk, we remain **behind the pace of the growing wildfire threat**.
- Success will be measured not just in the number of homes served, but in **how effectively we can create a replicable model for the future**.
- This program is one small step in Flagstaff's path towards healthy forests and resilient communities.



Protecting Homes, Strengthening Community



Protecting Lives and Property

Home hardening and defensible space can significantly reduce the likelihood of a home being lost to wildfire.



Community Resilience

Hardening individual homes strengthens neighborhoods, reducing risk at the collective scale.



Alignment with City Priorities

WRHI directly supports the CNP's resilience goals and complements upcoming code revisions on wildfire defense.

Investment in **education and empowerment** has repeatedly shown to be a critical step in community risk reduction to undesirable wildfire. Research shows that when residents takes one action towards wildfire resilience, they are likely to take more in the future.



Community-Identified Priorities

- Wildfire resilience has been consistently identified as a **top community concern** through resilience workshops and public engagement.
- Residents have asked for **clear guidance** on practical steps to make their homes safer from wildfire.
- Many households face **financial and physical barriers** to implementing defensible space and home hardening measures.
- Community members want more opportunities for **neighborhood-scale action**.



Questions?

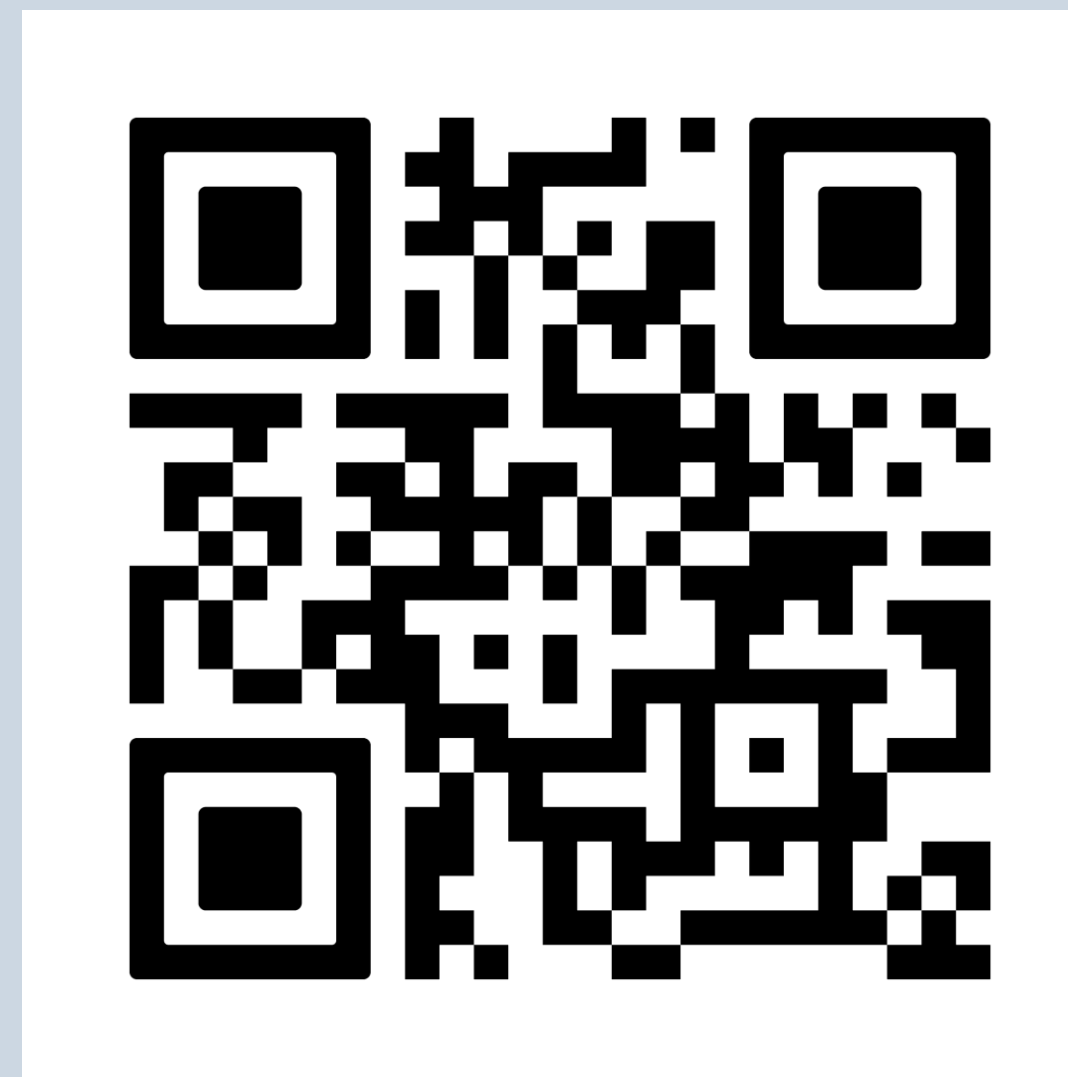
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Sign up for a home assessment today!

