

2019 Fair Housing Policy Guidelines

What is a Fair Housing Policy?

A fair housing policy allows a city to clearly declare its fair housing commitment, to ensure it is effectively serving its citizens with fair housing concerns, and to plan proactively both to avoid fair housing problems for the city and take advantage of opportunities to increase housing choices for all its residents.

What does this have to do with LCA?

Minnesota Statute ([M.S. 473.25](#), the Livable Communities Act) includes language that states “The Council shall establish criteria for uses of the fund...that are consistent with and promote the purposes of this article and the policies of the Metropolitan Council Development Guide [currently [Thrive MSP 2040](#)] adopted by the Council...”

Page 61 of the [Housing Policy Plan](#) (adopted by the Council Dec 10 2014 and amended July 22 2015 as part of Thrive MSP 2040) on states under Local Responsibilities: “Adopt local fair housing policies to be eligible to receive Livable Communities Act grants to support housing development.”

What is required to get LCA funds?

LCA funds will not be disbursed until there is a fair housing policy adopted, but a community participating in LCA does not need to have a fair housing policy in place at the time of application or to be awarded funding.

A Fair Housing Policy must meet the following three criteria to be considered meeting the requirement for LCA fund distribution

- Approval from a governing board of the grantee (i.e. City Council vote to adopt policy)
- The policy delineates accountability for the complaint (i.e. a staff person, referral process)
- Free-standing document/text that outlines the policy that references fairness in housing specifically (i.e. language in a comp plan does not count)

Where can I learn more about how to adopt a Fair Housing Policy in my community?

In partnership with the Housing Justice Center, a [Fair Housing Policy Guide](#) and [Model Fair Housing Policy](#) were created to help communities understand the purpose and history of fair housing.

What does a Fair Housing Policy look like?

Several communities in the region have adopted stand-alone policies that meet the three criteria for LCA fund distribution:

- Bloomington ([link to policy](#))
- Shoreview ([link to policy](#))
- Watertown ([link to policy](#))
- Coon Rapids ([link to policy](#))
- Robbinsdale ([link to policy](#))