

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 19, 2014

Subject: 2015 Community Development Division Budget Discussion

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Information Only

Staff Prepared/Presented: Guy Peterson, Community Development Director 651 602-1418; Beth Reetz, Livable Communities Director, 651 602-1060

Division/Department: Community Development Division

A number of new areas of emphasis have been identified through Thrive MSP 2040 and the Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities report that will require additional staffing and financial resources to implement. This item is a discussion of some of the implementation steps and resource needs to prompt Committee direction to staff as they prepare the 2015 Community Development Division Budget for Committee and Council consideration.

Thrive MSP 2040 has identified housing choice for all residents, across age, race and ethnicity, economic means and ability, as one of the steps to accomplishing equity as an outcome for the region. The region is stronger when all people live in communities that provide them access to opportunities for success, prosperity and quality of life. The Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities Region report identified several barriers to housing choice. In particular, the housing choices of residents of color are much more limited than those of their white counterparts due to discriminatory practices in rental leasing, real estate steering, and mortgage lending.

The Thrive MSP 2040 and the CPO report state the Council will:

- provide mobility counseling to enable Metro HRA's Housing Choice Voucher holders to choose locations that best meet their needs, including opportunity rich, higher cost communities, and
- engage in program marketing and outreach to increase landlord participation in the Housing Choice Voucher program, and
- support fair housing activities to determine if specific discriminatory practices are limiting housing choice.