

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: December 21, 2020

Subject: 2021 Work Planning for Housing Strategies

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference:

Staff Prepared/Presented: LisaBeth Barajas, Community Development Director, 651-602-1895

Division/Department: Community Development Division

Proposed Action

No proposed action at this time. This item is for discussion purposes.

Background

In preparation for upcoming work planning discussions for the Community Development Committee, Council staff will report out on the efforts related to the Council's Housing Goal identified in the [Metropolitan Council Strategic Plan](#). Council staff will also seek feedback from the Committee on prioritizing efforts in 2021 to ensure that staff work plans are aligned with Committee expectations.

Staff will seek feedback from Committee members on efforts that are categorized as "Special Projects / Initiatives" in Table 1 below, as these strategies in particular involve efforts that are in addition to the core work that staff perform related to statutory and federal requirements.

Table 1. Status of Housing Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Status	Type of Work
Investment & Operations	Create and contribute to a new collaborative fund to support smaller, low-barrier supportive housing options for people experiencing homelessness throughout the region.	Underway	Annual Budget
Investment & Operations	Continue to add general fund dollars to the Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) each year, with funding prioritized toward housing affordable to households earning 30% of AMI or less.	Underway	Annual Budget
Regional Planning	Share expanded housing technical assistance (such as toolkits, model ordinances, etc.) and participate or convene workshops to share housing strategies, tools, and resources to support local governments.	Ongoing	Regular Work

Objective	Strategy	Status	Type of Work
Regional Planning	Participate in, or convene when necessary, helpful workshops or tables to share housing strategies, tools, and resources among local governments.	Ongoing	Regular Work
Regional Planning	Maintain and improve data infrastructure to advance knowledge and awareness of the region's housing stock and demographic characteristics.	Ongoing	Regular Work
Investment & Operations	Incorporate more nuanced analysis into Council actions and technical assistance to best balance the differing priorities of supporting more housing choice in high-income areas and improving livability outcomes in lower-income areas.	Underway	Regular Work
Regional Planning	Explore a housing choice indicator tool to provide more specific recommendations about housing needs in specific communities in the region.	Not started	Special Project / Initiative
Regional Planning	Build regional capacity and technical assistance to support the expansion of housing opportunities for people with disabilities.	Not started	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Explore additional affordable homeownership strategies that the Council might take on with a focus on wealth-building for households of color.	Underway	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Review Livable Communities Act (LCA) programs to ensure alignment with the key objectives above.	Underway	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Explore the use of, or repurpose, other revenue streams to contribute to affordable housing preservation and production.	Not started	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Explore a first-time home-buyers program through the Housing Choice Voucher program.	Not started	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Conduct a research project to measure residential preferences of Housing Choice Voucher holders in the region.	Underway	Special Project / Initiative
Investment & Operations	Apply for new funding opportunities as they come available through federal or other partners to expand the number of households assisted with rent assistance.	Underway	Special Project / Initiative

Objective	Strategy	Status	Type of Work
Regional Planning	Develop in-place strategies in high poverty areas to assist with resident and child success, such as Homework Starts with Home program - a partnership with school districts in high poverty areas, to provide rent assistance and supports for students experiencing homelessness or housing instability.	Underway	Special Project / Initiative