

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 3, 2020

Subject: 2020 Annual Livable Communities Program Funding Levels and Schedule

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Livable Communities Act (Minn. Stat. § 473.25)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tara Beard, Livable Communities Manager (651-602-1051)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None. Information and discussion only.

Background

The Livable Communities Act requires that the Council prepare an annual plan for distribution of the Livable Communities funds based on criteria developed by the Council. The annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan establishes the amount of funding that will be available for grant awards from each of the Livable Communities accounts; sets the calendar for the grants making processes; and sets forth the criteria upon which applications are reviewed and grant awards are based. At the January 21 Committee meeting, Council staff requested direction from the Committee Members on the criteria, with a focus on clearly aligning grant criteria with the policies and goals of the Council.

At the February 3 Committee meeting, staff will seek input and direction on the remaining topics of funding amount and the calendar for 2020 grant cycles.

Council staff have sought and will continue to seek input on these elements of the 2020 Fund Distribution Plan from individual communities, Metro Cities, and other stakeholders. Council staff will incorporate the Committee's input and prepare the 2020 Fund Distribution Plan for the Council's adoption in February.

2020 Fund Distribution Plan Summary of Topics for Discussion

Funding Availability

The Livable Communities Act provides an annual baseline of funding amounts from a variety of sources including the fiscal disparities program and the Council's tax levy. Over the years, each account has seen additional funds made available for the programs from interest earnings and grant relinquishments. Council practice has been to use these additional funds to increase total funding amounts beyond the statutory baseline.

Staff will present the estimated baseline funds available for 2020 as well as the availability of additional funds to consider for increasing the 2020 Fund Distribution Plan. The discussion will include pros and cons of different approaches to aid the Committee's discussion of the final funding amounts.

Grants Calendar

The Fund Distribution Plan sets forth a grants calendar for the various programs within the LCA umbrella. Staff will present a proposed schedule for each program for the Committee's feedback.