

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: November 16, 2020

Subject: 2021 Livable Communities Act programs scoring criteria

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.25

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

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

Information item only.

Background

The Livable Communities Act (LCA) requires that the Council prepare an annual plan for distribution of the Livable Communities funds based on scoring criteria developed by the Council. As in prior years, staff will have multiple conversations with the Community Development Committee before recommending adoption of criteria for 2021 LCA programs at the January 19, 2021, committee meeting.

Staff have spent 2020 evaluating scoring criteria through a statutory and policy lens and have sought input on multiple aspects of LCA programs, including scoring criteria, from participant communities, Metro Cities, the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders. In addition, the Housing Work Group, a subgroup of Council members, has convened biweekly since July to explore and guide LCA evaluation efforts, with an emphasis on scoring criteria in recent months. These efforts have revealed opportunities to consider substantial changes to how scoring criteria is organized, communicated, and prioritized.

At the November 16 committee meeting, staff will share recommendations for high level scoring criteria changes intended to:

- Provide clearer organization of criteria to better communicate intended program outcomes to participating communities and their development partners, and
- Create a clearer link between scoring criteria and the foundational purpose of LCA, including aligning criteria with the metropolitan development guide (*Thrive MSP 2040*).

At the December 21 committee meeting, the Housing Work Group and staff will provide recommendations on specific scoring criteria for Committee feedback and discussion. Finally, as mentioned above, final recommendations will be presented for Committee adoption on January 19, 2021.