

# Information Item

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** December 4, 2023

## Topic

2024 and 2025 LCA Planning Update

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. § 473.253, Livable Communities Act
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Sarah Berke, Senior Manager, Livable Communities, 651-602-1198 Hannah Gary, Planning Analyst, Livable Communities, 651-602-1633
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development/Regional Planning

## Background

The Livable Communities Act (LCA) requires that the Council prepare an annual plan, the Fund Distribution Plan (FDP) for distribution of the Livable Communities funds that includes funding availability, program guidelines, and scoring criteria.

This report provides an overview of program evaluation and design processes that are underway, and an overview of the next steps for the 2024 and 2025 FDPs.

In response to questions that arose while considering and approving the 2023 FDP in February 2023, committee members engaged in two in-depth working discussions about LCA program goals and implementation in July and October 2023. Throughout the year, staff have also prioritized outreach to applicant communities throughout the metro region and have worked to collect feedback in the form of surveys and interviews from program participants and stakeholders.

Staff are now working to analyze the information they have collected, to incorporate committee members' guidance, and to draft proposals for changes to the LCA program. Based on the Imagine 2050 planning timeline and the need to fully vet any major changes with program stakeholders (including applicants, potential applicants, development teams, and funding partners), staff anticipates bringing recommendations for these changes to the committee no earlier than next year, for the 2025 program year.

Staff are also planning to propose a more typical set of minor adjustments to program guidelines with the 2024 FDP, for committee members' consideration and approval in early 2024.

Recommendations for any major changes to the program will be guided by several goals:

- Aligning LCA effectively with Imagine 2050 goals and policies (now in development)
- Incorporating council member and applicant feedback about funding needs
- Aligning program goals with a pragmatic assessment of the role LCA plays in the overall development funding ecosystem, and monitoring changes that emerge (e.g. with the new metro sales tax that will provide new funding to cities and counties for affordable housing)
- Reducing burden to applicants and ensuring all participating communities and their development partners have the capacity to submit successful applications

## Questions for Committee Members

1. What opportunities do you see to align LCA as an incentive for advancing goals and objectives of Imagine 2050?
2. What would you like to learn from program stakeholders?

## **Timeline**

Next steps and key milestones for 2024 and 2025 LCA program planning include:

### *2024 FDP for LCA Programs:*

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|--------------------|---|
| December 18, 2024: | Preview of LCA planning for 2024 and 2025 (Information Item)  |
| January 16, 2024:  | Draft Fund Distribution Plan for 2024 (Information Item)  |
| February 5, 2024:  | Fund Distribution Plan for 2024 to CDC for approval (Business Item for February 14 Council meeting) |

### *2025 FDP for LCA Programs:*

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|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2024:                  | Staff analyze data from stakeholder surveys and interviews, and from community engagement sessions, to identify themes           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2024: | Engage stakeholders and advisory groups in program design;<br>Begin incorporating policy direction from Imagine 2050 plan drafts |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024:                   | Staff refine program direction, present recommendations to CDC   |
| January 2025:                                   | Present updated Fund Distribution Plan for 2025 to CDC for approval  |

