

# Information Item

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2023

## Topic

LCA Policy Development Program

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. § 473.253, 2023 Annual Livable Communities Act Fund Distribution Plan
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Hannah Gary, Planning Analyst, (651) 602-1633
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Housing and Livable Communities

## Background

In the 2022 Annual Livable Communities Act Fund Distribution Plan ([Business Item 2022-50](#)), the Council approved the new Policy Development program with the goal of supporting cities to develop policies that achieve LCA and Thrive objectives. The Policy Development program is an expansion of the previous LCDA-TOD Zoning program, which provided funding to participating cities to develop TOD zoning policies. While TOD zoning is still an eligible policy under the new program, the LCA Policy Development program expands policy eligibility to support affordable housing, economic opportunity, compact and connect development, as well as environmental sustainability.

The Policy Development program was offered in one round of funding in 2022. In 2023, the Annual Livable Communities Act Fund Distribution Plan ([Business Item 2023-48](#)) approved two rounds of funding for the Policy Development program on a concurrent schedule with the LCA Pre-Development program.

The 2022 round yielded two applications, both of which received funding. During the first round of 2023 grants we did not receive any Policy Development applications.

Funding amounts have stayed consistent across the two years the Policy Development program has been offered. Cities may be awarded up to \$50,000 towards policy development over a two-year grant term.

Staff is conducting broad and individual outreach, including in-person visits, individual emails, and newsletters, to promote the program and believe that there will be applications during the second funding opportunity this year. Conversations with city staff have been positive. We will continue to monitor program interest and make changes as needed in this year's funding cycle. Council staff will plan for broader discussion with the Committee about potential changes if needed in the fund distribution plan for the 2024 funding cycle.

The next round of funding applications will open on June 19 and applications will be due on July 21. There is \$1 million of funding still available for applications to this program in 2023.