

# Business Item

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

## Business Item: 2023- 235

Public Hearing Date – Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing, Application to U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; and Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Sarah Berke, Senior Manager, Livable Communities and Housing Policy, 651-602-1198
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development

### Proposed Action

There is no proposed action at this time. The purpose of this item is to conduct a public hearing to discuss and receive comment on a draft application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the “Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing” (PRO Housing) program.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council is preparing an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the PRO Housing funding opportunity. At its September 18, 2023, meeting, the Committee established this time and date for a public hearing to meet the submittal requirements for the grant application. PRO Housing, a new program offered by HUD for the first time in 2023, is intended to empower communities that are actively taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing and seeking to increase housing production and lower housing costs for families over the long term. HUD designates both Hennepin and Ramsey Counties as priority geographies for this grant opportunity.

The Metropolitan Council has worked with Hennepin County and Ramsey County to draft a \$10 million request focused on the Twin Cities 7-county metropolitan region. The Council would submit this application as the designated MPO for the region.

Draft application materials are available for download and review at <https://metro council.org/Housing/Planning.aspx>

### Timeline for Public Comment and Submittal

1. The Public Comment opened on September 26, 2023, and will close at the end of the day on October 10, 2023.
2. Comments from today’s Public Hearing will be incorporated into a summary of public comments received, along with those submitted in written form or by telephone.
3. The Committee would receive a staff report on public comments and consider a final staff recommendation to submit the PRO Housing application at its October 16, 2023, meeting.
4. Complete applications are due to HUD by October 30, 2023.

## **Rationale**

Federal regulations for the Notice of Funding Opportunity for PRO Housing require the Council to conduct a public hearing and open a minimum 15-day public comment period on the draft grant application, in order to submit an application to the PRO Housing funding opportunity.

## **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The PRO Housing grant program opportunity aligns with *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes of equity, livability, and stewardship, as well as with the *2040 Housing Policy Plan* goal to create housing options that give people in all stages of life and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable and affordable homes. This grant opportunity would expand the region's capacity for advancing both Thrive and Housing Policy Plan goals.

## **Funding**

Responding to application opportunities like PRO Housing is part of the Community Development division's ongoing workplan and is supported by staff and consulting time in the budget for Livable Communities and division-wide grant application opportunities.

## **Small Business Inclusion**

N/A

