Livable Communities Act Programs

Alignment with Imagine 2050 & Program Update

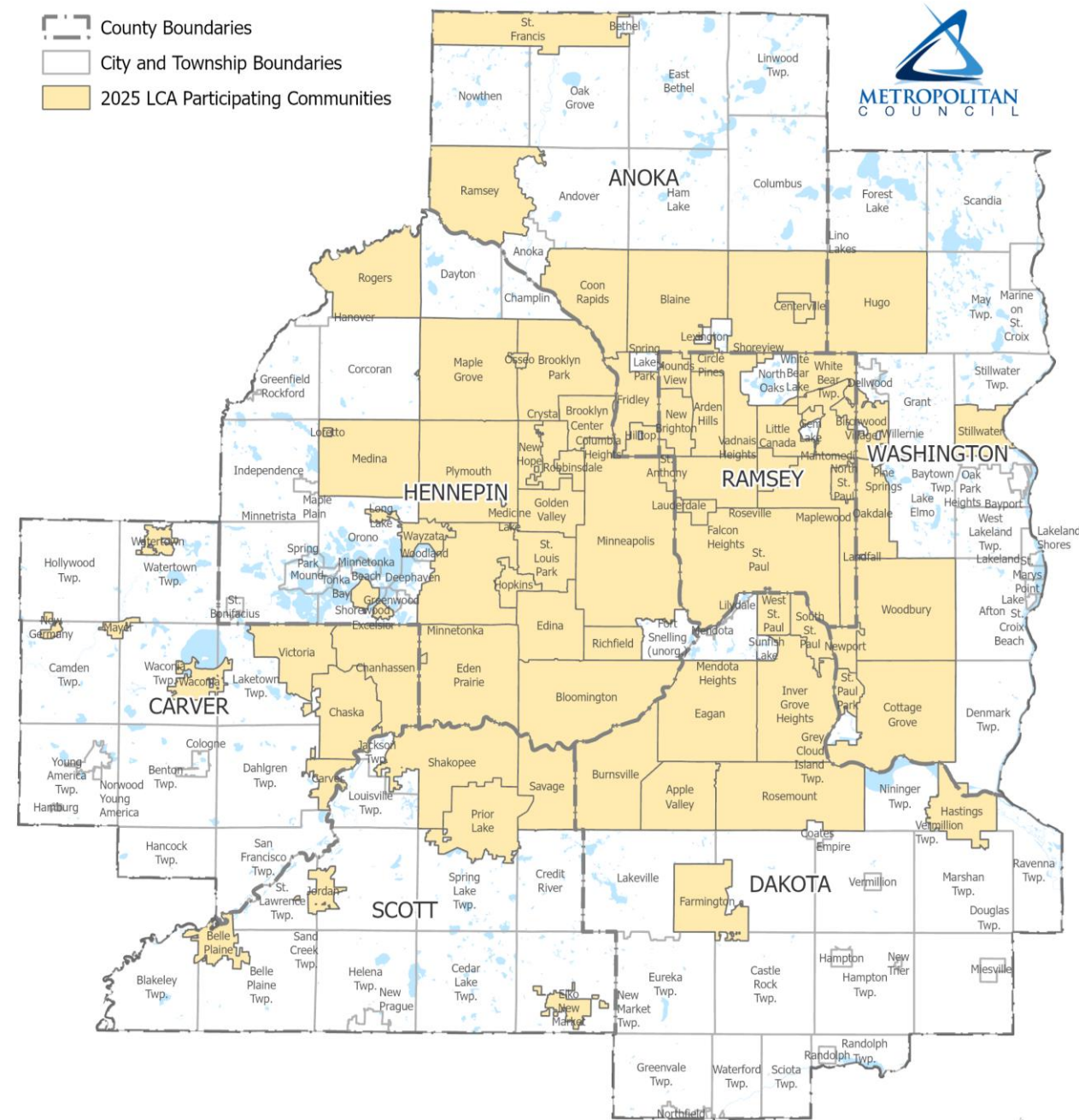April 21, 2025

Livable Communities Act Overview

Celebrating 30 Years!

What we do

- Competitive grants given to cities, counties, development authorities, or port authorities

- Incentivizes and support cities implement regional policy goals

- Cities must adopt affordable housing goals to participate
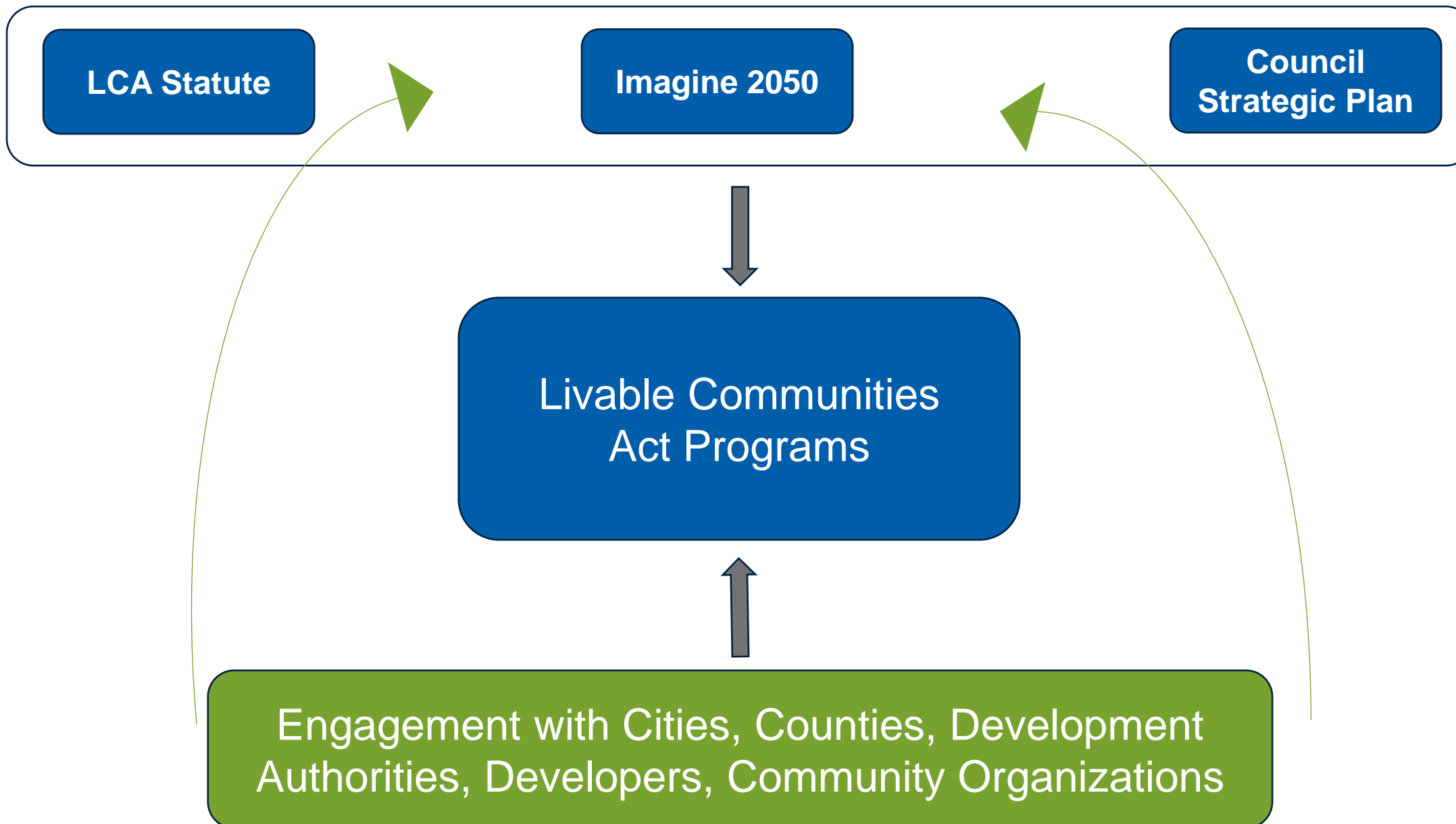
Program goals

- Housing choice and affordability

- Living wage jobs and economic opportunity

- Connect housing, jobs, and amenities

- Equitable development outcomes

Multi-Year Process

2021 & 2022

Annual applicant surveys

Pre-Development interviews

2023

CDC Work Groups

Developer interviews

City staff and county staff interviews

2024

Consultant Engagement & Report

2025

Alignment with Imagine 2050 & Recommendation

How Do We Design LCA Programs?

LCA Statute

Imagine 2050

Council Strategic Plan

Formal documents define suite of goals and priorities; set by legislators and Council

Livable Communities Act Programs

Staff designs and recommends grants programs, including funding levels and scoring criteria, that are approved by Council

Engagement with Cities, Counties, Development Authorities, Developers, Community Organizations

Community vision

Metropolitan Council
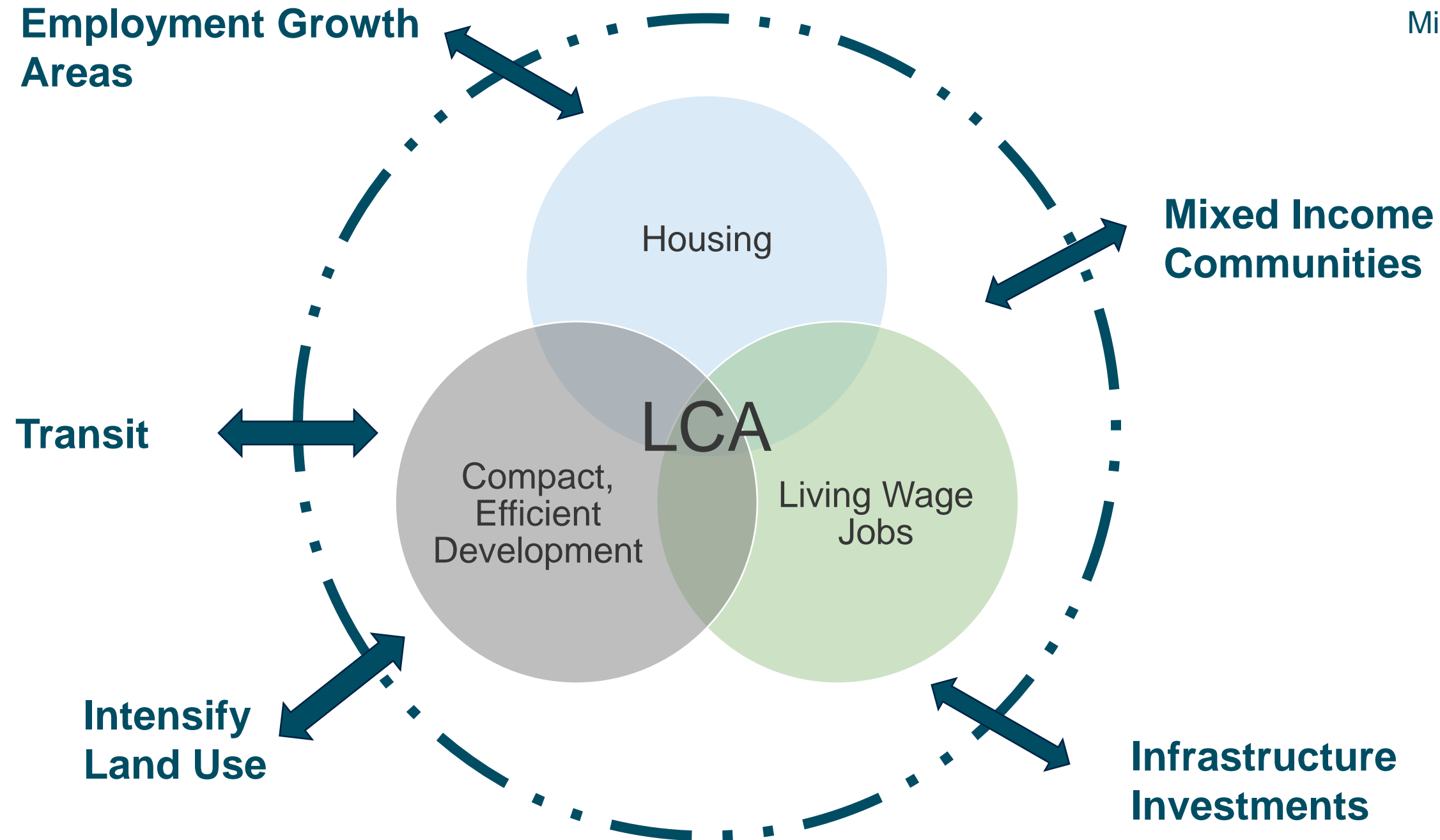
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The Livable Communities Act Program funds local action and projects make communities more livable* in alignment with regional goals

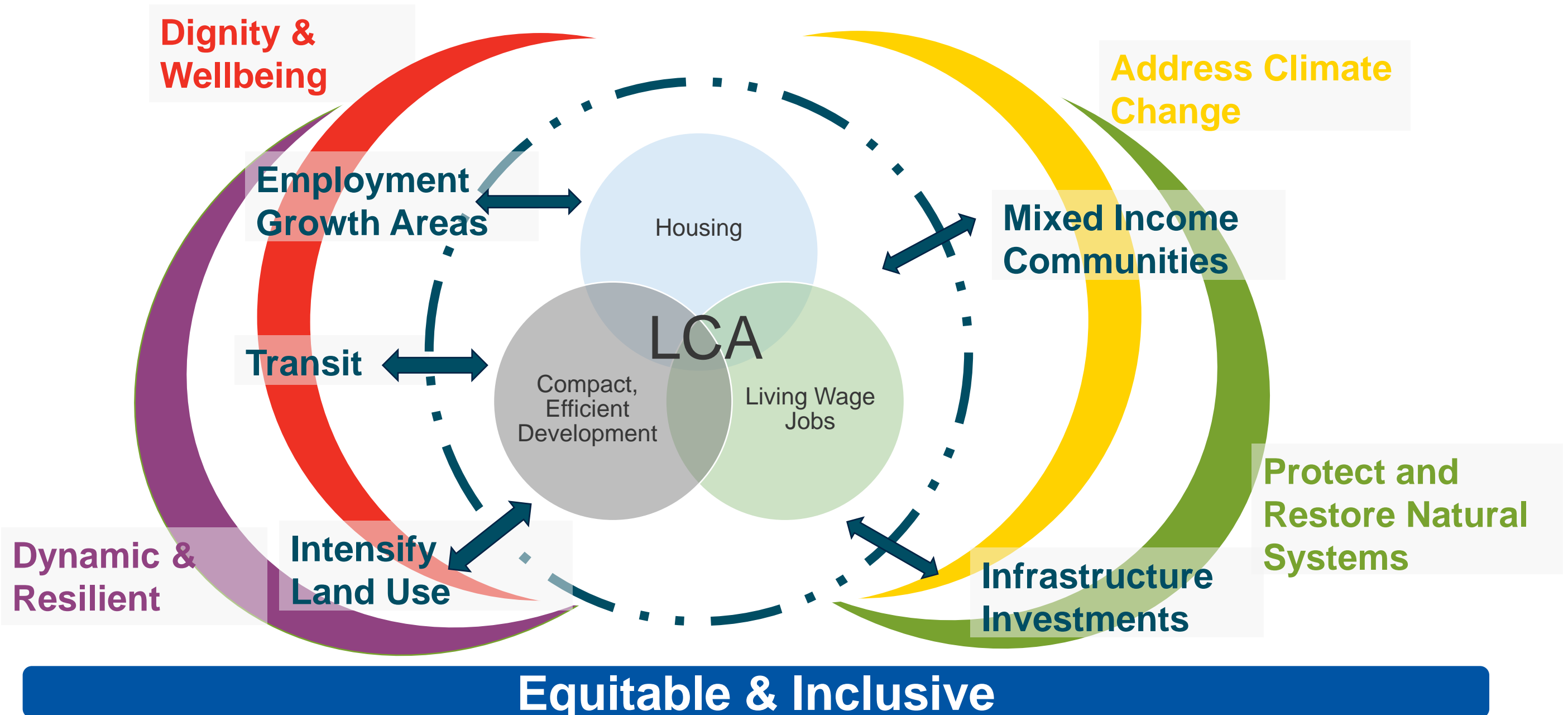# Statute Definition of a Livable Community

Employment Growth Areas

Transit

Intensify Land Use

Housing

LCA

Compact, Efficient Development

Living Wage Jobs

Mixed Income Communities

Infrastructure Investments

Metropolitan Council

Layer with Imagine 2050

Dignity & Wellbeing

Address Climate Change

Employment Growth Areas

Housing

Mixed Income Communities

LCA

Transit

Compact, Efficient Development

Living Wage Jobs

Dynamic & Resilient

Intensify Land Use

Protect and Restore Natural Systems

Infrastructure Investments

Equitable & Inclusive

Metropolitan Council

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External Input

April: Refining Elements of a Livable Community

What We're Doing

Working in partnership with city staff, county staff, and developers to understand how LCA can best fill existing gaps.

This was a desire that came out of the first CDC workshop with Council Members in 2023.

How We're Doing It

4 engagement sessions with mix of city staff, county staff, and developers.

Representatives from all 16 Council districts were invited.

Focused conversations on visions for a livable community and how LCA can support realizing those visions.

Refining the Elements for LCA

Set conditions

Choice in housing and transportation

Physical, mental, and cultural safety

Ability to meet daily needs in community

Tailored solutions to meet local needs

Racial Equity and Justice

Recommending a Program Design

Internal processes

- We are dedicated to creating systems, policies, and programs that repair and heal past harm, foster an equitable future, and eliminate disparities (Imagine 2050)

- We will be transparent and flexible so that we can change course when needed (Imagine 2050)
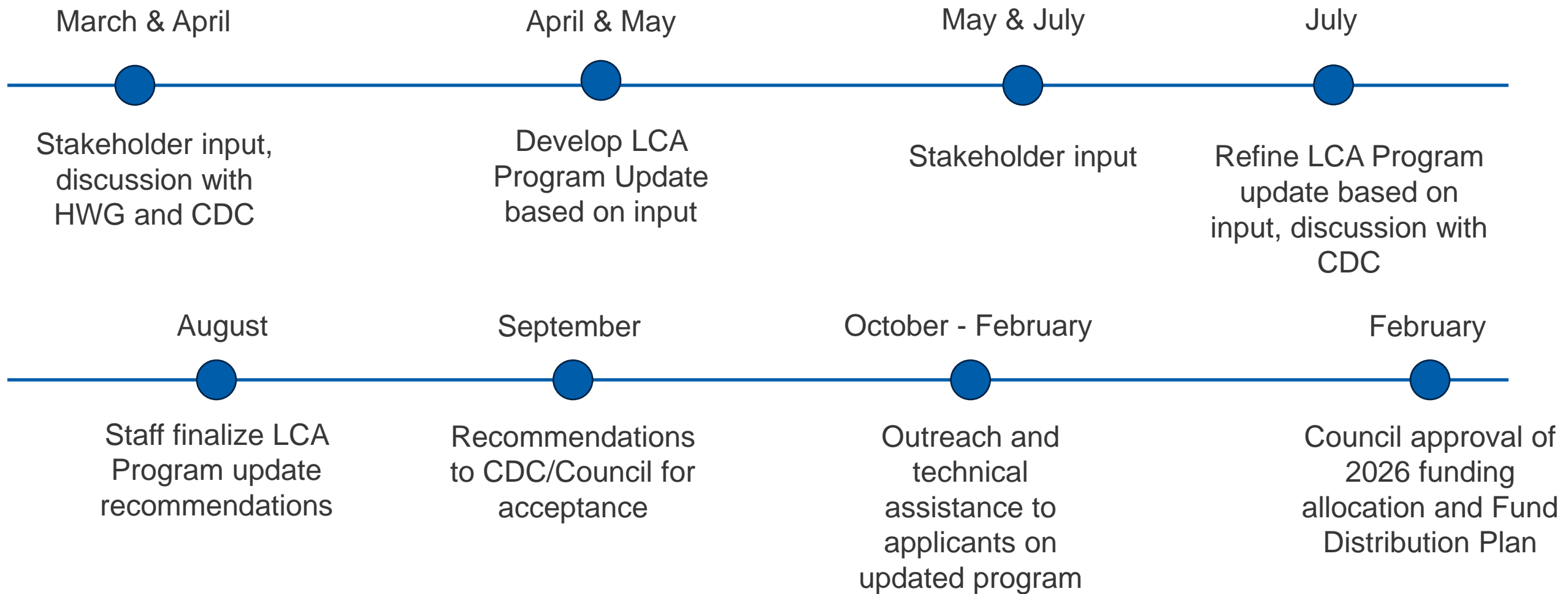
What we fund

- We intend to continue to fund activities along the development continuum (Community Feedback)

- We will fund affordable housing every year (Minn Stat 473.25)

- We will fund environmental cleanup activities every year (Minn Stat 473.25)

- Activities identified in Imagine 2050

How we fund

- In alignment with other Council grant programs

- Simpler for grantees to access (Fall 2024 Consultant Report)

- Data driven with focus on continuous improvement (2023 Council Direction)

- Responsive to potential applicant needs (2023 Council Direction)

Metropolitan Council

Project Timeline

March & April

Stakeholder input, discussion with HWG and CDC

April & May

Develop LCA Program Update based on input

May & July

Stakeholder input

July

Refine LCA Program update based on input, discussion with CDC

August

Staff finalize LCA Program update recommendations

September

Recommendations to CDC/Council for acceptance

October - February

Outreach and technical assistance to applicants on updated program

February

Council approval of 2026 funding allocation and Fund Distribution Plan

Metropolitan Council

Discussion

- **Elements of a Livable Community for the LCA Programs:**
  - Does this align with your community's needs?
  - What's missing?
  - What could be more narrowly defined?

- **Program Design:**
  - Are the broad goals and guardrails in alignment with your goals for the program?
  - What's missing?

Questions?

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