

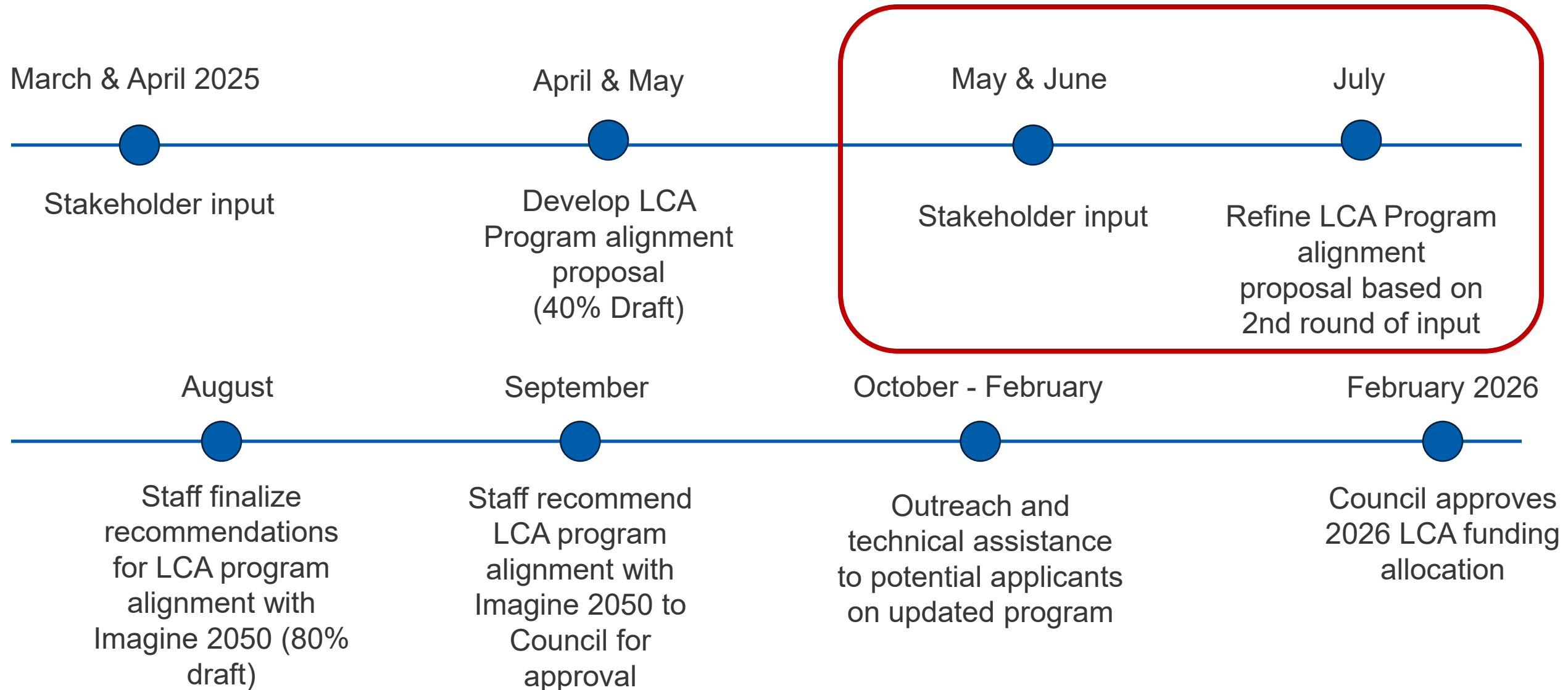
Livable Communities Act

Program Update & Alignment with Imagine 2050 Update



Community Development Committee | July 7, 2025

Imagine 2050 Alignment Project Timeline



What We've Heard

Alignment with Imagine 2050

How can LCA programs affect livability?



Safety

- Physical: Safely cross streets or ride a bike
- Psychological: Being welcome, community support



Ability to Stay in Community

- Recreation, community gathering options
- Keep community spending power in the community
- Limit risk of displacement



Choice in Housing and Transportation

- Variety of types of housing, options to rent or own, different affordability bands
- Choice to drive, bike, walk, or roll to destinations
- Backup transportation options, even if it is not your preferred method

Process Design Goals

Overcoming known challenges and perceptions

- Simplify the process
- Suburban projects and projects not located near transit that are aligned with Imagine 2050 goals are competitive
 - Projects near transit or trails must have meaningful connections
- Smaller projects that are aligned with Imagine 2050 goals are competitive



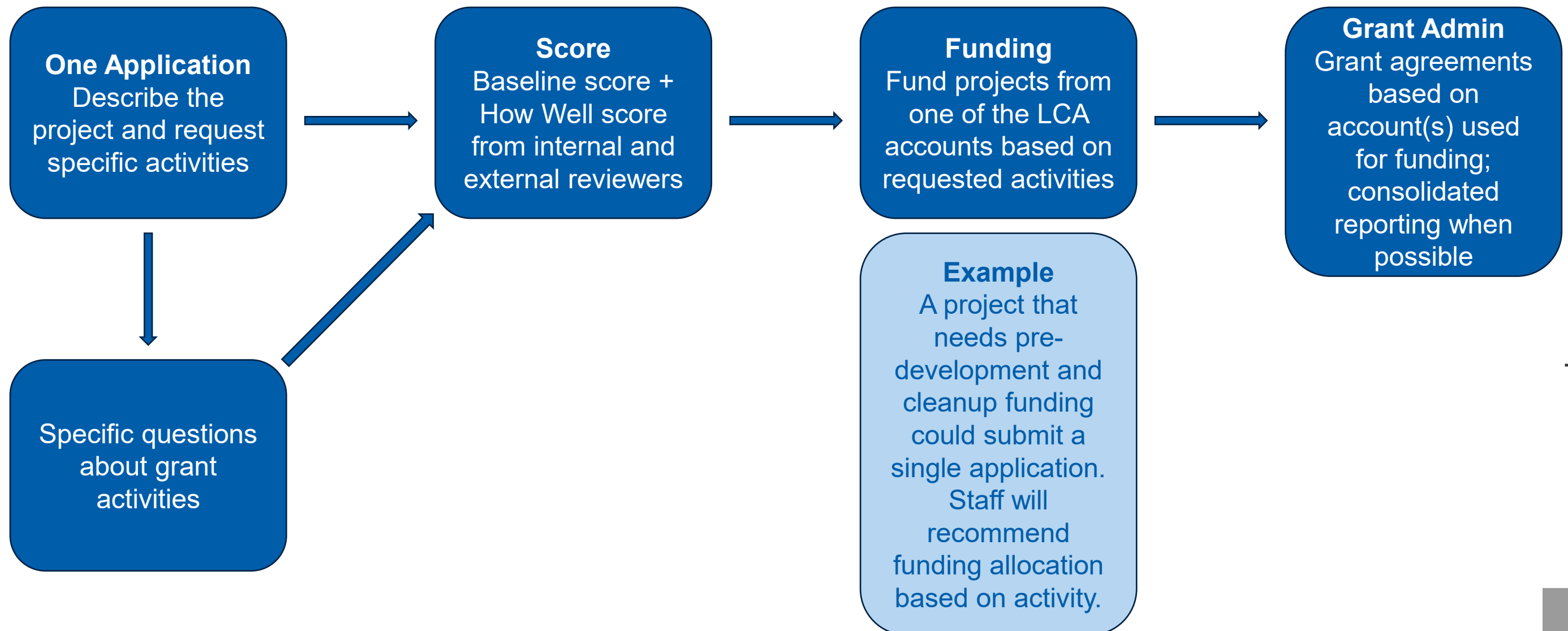
50% Draft Responding to Grantee Needs



- Continue to fund activities across the development continuum, from policy to construction and rehab
- Expand eligible projects to include small area development plans that align with regional goals
- Simplify structure to enable development projects to submit one application for all activities for which they are seeking funding
- Streamline and make scoring more transparent to ensure a variety of project types are competitive

Proposed Application Process

Goal: Simplify the application process



Proposed Scoring Structure (50% Draft)

Baseline Score

Column A

*Weighted more heavily than
Column B*

Project meets 1 – 3 priorities
Earn __# points

**Project meets 4 or more
priorities**
Earn __# points



Column B

(Development Projects Only)

Project meets 1 – 3 priorities
Earn __# points

**Project meets 4 or more
priorities**
Earn __# points



How Well Score

**Reviewer's assessment of
how well the project is
meeting Met Council
objectives**

Development Projects Proposed Scoring Structure (50% Draft)



Column A Priorities

All priorities are weighted equally. Projects are competitive if they meet at least one priority in Column A or B. Column A is more heavily weighted than Column B

- Build new homes with at least 10% of units in the project affordable to households living on 30% AMI or less, **OR** the project meets 10% of the city's need for units affordable to households living on 30% AMI
- Create new affordable homeownership opportunities for households earning 80% AMI or less
- Rehab or preserve existing homes affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below for rental projects or 80% AMI or below for ownership projects
- Reduce vacant or underutilized land through infill or redevelopment, **OR** project is located in an eligible transit area (1/2 mile of a station area or 1/4 mile of high frequency local bus route)
- Support asset building through commercial ownership and/or business incubators/small business development spaces
- Add at least 10 living wage jobs and/or job training for residents in cities with lower household income than the regional median
- Environmental cleanup in Environmental Justice areas

Development Projects Proposed Scoring Structure (50% Draft)

Column B Priorities

All priorities are weighted equally. Projects are competitive if they meet at least one priority in Column A or B. Column A is more heavily weighted than Column B

- Build new homes with at least 75% of the units in a project affordable to households living at or below 60% AMI, **OR** the income of residents in all units in the project averages 60% AMI or less
- Bring new retail or service options to the area
- Add new housing types or tenures to the area
- Project includes 3+ bedroom units for families, affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below for rental projects or 80% AMI or below for ownership projects
- Project includes public, community gathering space
- Energy-saving activities that result in decarbonization, water efficiency, or reduced energy costs for cost-burdened residents
- Create senior or youth-serving (aged 16-24) housing affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below
- Build or rehab housing that serves people who have experienced homelessness
- Use universal design principles and/or create more accessible housing units than required by Minnesota Housing



Example Application: Baseline Score

	Example A Urban	Example B Suburban	
Column A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% AMI units • Infill development • Living wage jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% AMI units 	Both projects meet 1-3 priorities
Column A Total	8 Points*	8 Points*	
Column B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable units • New housing type • Youth focus • Homelessness • Energy Saving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable units • New housing type • Senior housing • Homelessness • Energy Saving 	Both projects meet 4+ priorities
Column B Total	12 Points*	12 Points*	
Outcomes Total Score	20 Points*	20 Points*	

*Points in the example reflect proposed weighting, but the exact number of points possible may change

Development Projects Scoring Priorities (50% Draft)

How Well Criteria

- How is the project helping the city to meet its identified development needs that are aligned with regional goals?
- How is the project benefiting people who live on the lowest incomes, are Black, American Indian, or part of another community of color?
- If near existing or planned transit or trails, how is the project connecting housing, jobs, and/or job training to transit and/or trails?
- Whose perspective is represented in the project through community engagement and/or as part of the development team? And how are their perspectives represented?
- How does the project preserve the ability for residents and businesses to stay in the community and preserve cultural and social community connections?
- Are the team and funding sources identified? Does the project have site control for development activities (cleanup–construction)?

For Cleanup Projects Only

- What is the severity of environmental contamination?*
- What is the risk of exposure to environmental contamination?*
- What is the impact on the property tax base?*



Policy Projects Proposed Scoring Structure (50% Draft)

Baseline Score

Projects are competitive if they meet at least one priority

- Encourage more development or preservation of affordable housing, both rental and ownership
- Incentivize environmentally sustainable development and green infrastructure
- Mitigate or prevent future displacement of residents and businesses
- Increase housing choice through type, tenure, and/or accessibility

How Well Score

- How does the policy benefit people needing or living in housing affordable to people living on 30% AMI or less?
- What is the plan for addressing potential unintended consequences?
- What is the clearly defined workplan/scope?
- What is the net tax capacity of the city?

Small Area Planning Projects Proposed Scoring Structure (50% Draft)

Baseline Score

Projects are competitive if they meet at least one priority

- Situate affordable housing near transportation options and amenities
- Plan for mixed-use areas on infill or redevelopment sites
- Plan for commercial districts and corridors that include spaces for small-scale and emerging businesses
- Establish or improve multi-modal transportation options by connecting trails and bike infrastructure with housing, jobs, and transit
- Establish or improve a cultural corridor
- Protect areas of ecological significance within planned development areas and/or incorporate strategies to promote public and ecosystem health
- Plan for public gathering space as part of a small area plan, corridor plan, or station area plan

How Well Score

- How will the community and diverse perspectives be represented in engagement through the process to develop the small area plan?
- What is the displacement mitigation strategy?
- How will amenities and connectivity prioritize residents?
- What is the clearly defined workplan/scope?
- What is the net tax capacity of the city?

Proposal for Continuous Improvement

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Assessing both project outcomes and internal processes
- Integrating more data collection into the grant process without burdening the grantee
- Collecting data at different points, from annually to every 10 years
- Allowing enough time to see impact of program update changes.



Discussion

- What do you support in this proposal? What excites you?
- How well does this proposal meet the key Imagine 2050 outcomes prioritized in the program?
- What would you like more information on?



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