

Livable Communities Act

2026-2027 Livable Communities Act Program Design
Adoption



Community Development Committee | September 15, 2025

Background



What is the Livable Communities Act Grant Program?

- Voluntary, incentive grant program for cities, counties, and development authorities
- Advances and is a tangible demonstration of regional housing, economic opportunity, and equity goals
- In the past 30 years, LCA has awarded more than \$532M in grants to 1400 projects that support regional vitality
- In the past decade, LCA funds have helped:
 - Create more than 20,000 affordable and 9,000 market-rate homes
 - Support more than 18,000 living wage jobs
 - Increase the region's annual net tax capacity by more than \$53M
 - Shape and grow the region's transit oriented development

Imagine 2050 Alignment 2025 Project Timeline



Program Design Outreach



Who has supported the update in 2025

- 45 people external stakeholders
 - Mix of county staff, city staff, and developers
 - Seven structured conversations, both virtual and in-person
 - All 16 Council districts represented
- Public survey with 79 responses
- Three conversations with CDC and two with Housing Work Group
- Council staff with specific area expertise

Key Themes

- **Alignment with Imagine 2050.** There are no major changes to the program goals. But there are changes to how we prioritize projects within those goals to follow the new policy guidance.
- **Focus on outcomes, less on acronyms.** We are simplifying the process.
- **Every community is part of a livable region.** Projects in all participating communities and projects of all sizes that align with regional goals will be competitive.



Alignment with Imagine 2050

<div>Drivers of a Livable Community</div> <div>Imagine 2050 Goals</div>	Residents have choice in housing and transportation options.	There is physical, mental, and cultural safety.	Residents can meet their daily needs in their community.
Our region is equitable and inclusive.		X	X
Our communities are healthy and safe.		X	
Our region is dynamic and resilient.	X		X

2026-2027 Updates

- Single entry point application
- Clearer scoring process
- Expansion to include small area planning as an eligible use
- Reduce barriers for emerging and BIPOC developers
- Two-year approval of program design



Continuous Improvement



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Assessing both project outcomes and internal processes
- Integrating more data collection into the grant process without burdening the grantee
- Coordinating with other areas of the Council
- Allowing for enough time to analyze data before making program changes
- Findings reported to the Community Development Committee

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Livable Communities Act program design presented in Attachment 1: 2026-2027 Fund Distribution Plan for calendar years 2026 and 2027.



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