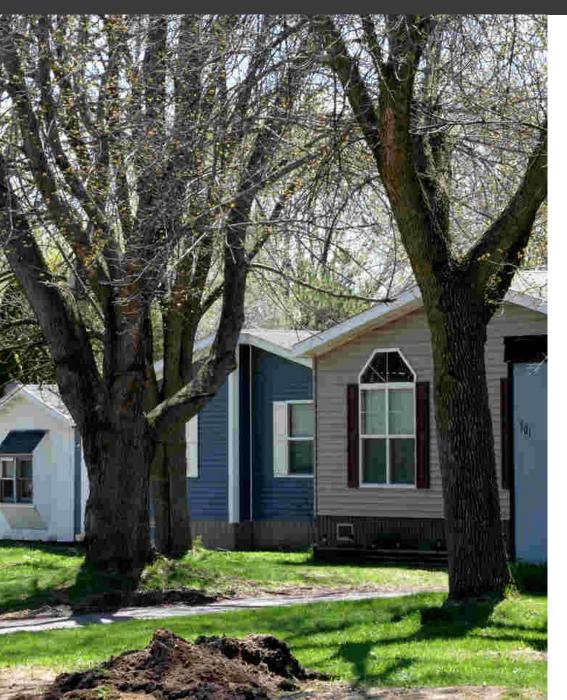


Livable Communities Act

2026-2027 Livable Communities Act Program Design Adoption



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

Metropolitan Council

Imagine 2050 Alignment 2025 Project Timeline

approval

draft)

March & April 2025 April & May May & June July Develop LCA Stakeholder input Stakeholder input Refine LCA Program Program alignment alignment proposal proposal based on (40% Draft) 2nd round of input August September October - February February 2026 Staff finalize Staff recommend Council approves Outreach and 2026 LCA funding recommendations LCA program technical assistance for LCA program alignment with allocation to potential applicants alignment with Imagine 2050 to on updated program Imagine 2050 (90% Council for

Program Design Outreach

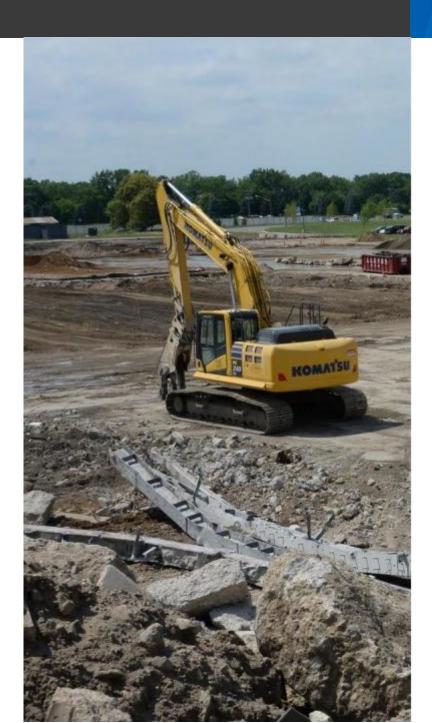


Who has supported the update in 2025

- 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

| Drivers of a Livable Community Imagine 2050 Goals | 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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