

Livable Communities Act and Regional Housing Policy

Equity Advisory Committee

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Who are we?

- Tara Beard, Livable Communities Manager
- Marcus Martin, Senior Planner, Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
- Hannah Gary, Senior Planner, Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)
- Stephen Klimek, Senior Planner, LCDA – Transit Oriented Development (LCDA- TOD)
- Hilary Lovelace, Senior Planner, Housing
- Ashleigh Johnson, Senior Planner, Housing – Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)



What will we cover today?

- Brief overview of LCA programs
- Brief overview of Council's roles in housing policy
- Framing an ongoing conversation: naming and prioritizing ways for the Equity Advisory Committee to influence LCA and Housing Policy

Livable Communities Act Overview

- State legislation adopted in 1995
- Voluntary program for Cities to have access to for various types of (re)development grants
- To participate, cities must:
 - Adopt affordable and life-cycle housing goals
 - Create a Housing Action Plan that articulates how those goals will be met
 - Expend a minimum amount of local budget on affordable and life-cycle housing opportunities

Livable Communities Act Overview

- Overarching goals of program:
 - Compact, efficient development
 - A full range of housing choices throughout the region
 - Creation and preservation of living-wage jobs
- Programs guided by annual adoption of a Fund Distribution Plan, which sets:
 - Award amounts
 - Application deadlines
 - Scoring criteria

Livable Communities Act Programs

- Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
 - Environmental investigation and cleanup
- Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)
 - Compact, connected development that supports job creation and affordable housing
- Livable Communities Demonstration Account – Transit Oriented Development (LCDA-TOD)
 - Same as regular LCDA but focused on leveraging and connecting transit investments
- Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)
 - Affordable housing funding pooled with Minnesota Housing's Consolidated RFP



What is the Metropolitan Council's role in housing policy?

- Provide data and analysis to understand trends and inform policy
- Define local government shares of the regional need for affordable housing
- Review local comprehensive plans to ensure that communities are meeting the housing requirements in the Metropolitan Land Planning Act
- Fund housing development through the Livable Communities Act programs
- Provide technical assistance and support to local governments
- Collaborate with and convene partners and stakeholders to expand the regional housing dialogue

This is just the beginning! How should we continue to engage?

- LCA (re)enrollment for 2021-2030
 - Affordable and Life-cycle Housing goals and Housing Action Plans
- LCA Evaluation and Continuous Improvement
 - How should we ask for and evaluate equity in project?
 - How can we direct LCA money to address more specific regional housing priorities?
 - 2021 LCA Fund Distribution Plan
- Regional Housing Policy
 - Developing more specific gentrification/displacement/geographic equity policy
 - Developing housing accessibility expertise
 - Continuing to monitor/evaluate affordable housing efforts throughout the region

Thank you!

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