



# Local Planning Assistance for Imagine 2050

Land Use Advisory Committee

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# Today's Agenda



## Consider options for Imagine 2050 Comprehensive Planning assistance

Background on Planning Assistance Grant Program

Proposed Options for Planning Assistance Grants Eligibility Criteria

Proposed Small Communities Program

Discussion and Next Steps

# Background on Planning Assistance Grant Program



# Statutory Authority for Planning Assistance

## Minnesota Statute 473.191

Local Planning Assistance, Subdivision 1, enables the Metropolitan Council to enter contracts or make other arrangements with local governmental units to provide services or assist with comprehensive community planning.

## Minnesota Statute 473.867

Planning Assistance; Grants; Loans, Subdivision 3, states that in making grants and loans, the council shall base its decisions on the recipient's demonstrated need and available financial resources.\*

*\*Underlining added to slide for emphasis*

# Planning Assistance Grants 2030 and 2040

Community Type	2030 Regional Development Framework		Thrive MSP 2040	
	# of grant communities	Grant Amounts per community	# of grant communities	Grant Amounts per community
<i>Unsewered</i>	11	\$ 15,000	3	\$ 20,000
<i>Sewered</i>	36	\$ 20,000	43	\$ 32,000
<i>"Small Cities"</i>	NA	\$ --	21	\$ 10,000
<i>County/Consortium*</i>	3	\$ 50,000	3	\$ 84,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$ 1,035,000</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$ 1,898,000</b>

# Criteria for Planning Grant Eligibility



## Criteria used for grant eligibility in 2030 and 2040

1. Net Tax Capacity of a community compared to the region's median capacity [NTC]
  - In 2030, the criteria was NTC overall for a community
  - In 2040, the criteria for NTC per capita for a community
2. 30 Year Population Growth Rate of a community compared to regional growth [Growth Rate]
3. Current Population of a community [Population]
4. Consortium planning approach for a county or coalition working collaboratively to update plans for 5 or more communities under one grant [Consortium]

# Planning Assistance Grants eligibility criteria for 2030 and 2040 planning cycles

	NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)	30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median	Current Population
<b>Planning Assistance Grants</b>			
2030 Framework General Eligibility	Less/equal to 300% metro median	Greater/equal to metro median	
2030 Framework County/Consortium	County or consortium of 5+ communities working collaboratively on comprehensive plan updates		
2040 Thrive General Eligibility	Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to metro median	
2040 Thrive Small Cities Eligibility	Less/equal to 125% metro median		Less/equal to 5,000
2040 Thrive County/Consortium	County or consortium of 5+ communities working collaboratively on comprehensive plan updates		

# Number of Communities Eligible for Grants in 2040 and 2050 under same criteria

Comparison of Grant Eligible Communities under Thrive 2040 and Imagine 2050 based on Thrive criteria			
Community Waste Service Type	Eligible for both Thrive & Imagine	Newly Eligible (for Imagine)	No Longer Eligible (from Thrive)
Unsewered	10	1	1
Sewered	33	6	11
Municipal (Rural Centers)	13	1	1
County/Consortium	2 counties (19 communities)	No limit on who is eligible	No limit on who is eligible
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>

**Important Note:** This analysis only applies to criteria; it does not consider total funding and grant levels available for *Imagine 2050* planning assistance grants. This has yet to be determined.



# Lessons Learned



## Informing the Imagine 2050 Planning Assistance Grants Program

- Local governments rely on the grant program.
- Grants alone were not sufficient to help the small communities complete their plans.
- Small communities struggled with having technical and professional resources available.
- Often consultant costs were higher than expected.
- Growth didn't appear to impact the effort communities undertook to update their plan.
- Focusing on criteria to build the grant program was the most helpful approach.
- Standards for reporting expenditures may better help understand the extent of assistance planning grants provide to local governments.

# Proposed Options for Planning Assistance Grants Eligibility Criteria



# Potential Changes to Grant Criteria

## Types of Communities not served under current grant criteria

### 1. Communities larger than 5,000 Population with low Net Tax Capacity (NTC) and slow growth

- Many low NTC communities have slow growth.
- Large, fast-growth communities are eligible while many slow-growth medium and small communities with lower NTC are not.
- Met Council expectations for Comp Plan updates are same for slow and fast growth communities.
- Slow-growth and low NTC are common in older, developed communities, who need good planning for infill and redevelopment, affordable housing, and engagement with diverse populations.

## Potential approach to serve these communities

- Revise the grant eligibility criteria to better reach low Net Tax Capacity communities.

# Rationale for Changes to Grant Criteria

## Types of Communities not served under current grant criteria

### 2. Very Small Communities with relatively strong Net Tax Capacity

- Some of the region's smallest communities not eligible due to higher NTC.
- Despite higher tax base, small communities often lack time, staff, or expertise to review Comprehensive Planning requirements, prepare a Request for Proposals, and review consultant proposals and documents.

### Potential approach to serve these communities

- Initiate technical planning assistance for Comprehensive Plan updates under a new "Small Communities Program," with criteria based on combined consideration of financial and professional capacity.

# Proposed New Options for Grant Eligibility

## Option A

Modify *Thrive General Eligibility* to add criteria that cities must have current Population under 25,000.

- Reduces eligible list from 43 to 33 cities.
- Fewer eligible large cities enables more eligible small communities.
- Large cities have better financial and staff capacity to update Comp Plans than medium and small cities.

## Options B and C

Focus on low growth communities with high financial need (NTC/capita less than or = 75% of metro).

- 18 new communities become eligible for planning grants.
- Serves half of the communities eligible under *Thrive Small Cities*.
- Option B growth rate = 7% to 16%
- Option C growth rate = Under 7%

# Eligibility Criteria and Options - comparing Thrive MSP 2040 and Imagine 2050

	NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)	30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median	Current Population
<b>Planning Assistance Grants</b>			
2040 Thrive General Eligibility	Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to metro median	
2040 Thrive Small Cities Eligibility	Less/equal to 125% metro median		Less/equal to 5,000
2040 Thrive & Imagine 2050 County/Consortium	County or consortium of 5+ communities working collaboratively on comprehensive plan updates		
Imagine 2050 Option A	Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to 16%	
Imagine 2050 Option B	Less/equal to 75% metro median	Between 7% and 16%	
Imagine 2050 Option C	Less/equal to 75% metro median	Less/equal to 7%	

# Proposed Small Communities Program



# Proposed Small Communities Program



## Program Intent

- Provide technical assistance to update comprehensive plans for the region's smallest communities.

## Program Goal

- Reduce burden of comprehensive plan updates for the communities with the least capacity to manage them.

## Program Method

- Hire 2-3 temporary (2 years) staff to Local Planning Assistance team to lead technical work of comprehensive plan updates for 20-30 Program communities.



# Eligibility Criteria and Options for Local Planning Assistance - Grants and Program

	<b>NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)</b>	<b>30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median</b>	<b>Current Population</b>	<b># of Eligible Comm- unities</b>	<b># also Eligible for Planning Grant Program</b>
<b>Small Communities Program</b>					
Level 1	Less/equal to 125% metro median	Less than metro median	Under 2,500	17	10
Level 2	Less/equal to 150% metro median		Under 1,000	21	10
Level 3	Less/equal to 175% metro median		Under 500	13	5

# Eligibility Criteria and Options for Grants and Small Communities Program

	NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)	30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median	Current Population	# of communities also eligible for Planning Grant Program
<b>Planning Assistance Grants</b>				
2040 Thrive General Eligibility	Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to metro median		43
2040 Thrive Small Cities Eligibility	Less/equal to 125% metro median		Less/equal to 5,000	35
2040 Thrive <u>and</u> Imagine 2050 County/Consortium	County or consortium of 5+ communities working collaboratively on comprehensive plan updates			Open ended
Imagine 2050 Option A	Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to 16%	Under 25,000	33
Imagine 2050 Option B	Less/equal to 75% metro median	Between 7% and 16%		13
Imagine 2050 Option C	Less/equal to 75% metro median	Less/equal to 7%		16
<b>Small Communities Program</b>				
Level 1	Less/equal to 125% metro median	Less than metro median	Under 2,500	17
Level 2	Less/equal to 150% metro median		Under 1,000	13
Level 3	Less/equal to 175% metro median		Under 500	16

# Discussion and Next Steps



# Discussion



## Question Prompts

1. Is there interest in reconsidering the planning assistance grant eligibility criteria for Imagine 2050?
  - If yes, which criteria should be adjusted and how?
2. Does the concept and outline for the Small Communities Program make sense? What questions or suggestions do you have?
3. What do you think of the eligibility criteria levels for the Small Communities Program?
4. What additional information would be helpful to inform consideration of Comprehensive Plan update assistance for Imagine 2050.

# Next Steps



## Planning Assistance Grants

- Determine eligibility criteria
- Set budget
- Identify list of eligible communities

## Small Communities Program

- Determine eligibility criteria
- Identify list of eligible communities
- Prepare detailed Program workplan
- Hire temporary planning staff

Thank you

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