



IMAGINE²⁰₅₀

Small Communities Planning Program and Planning Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Options

Land Use Advisory Committee

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Today's Agenda



Consider options for Imagine 2050 Comprehensive Planning assistance

Quick Review – Jan. 16 LUAC discussion on topic

Analysis of Planning Assistance Options

Revised Planning Assistance Options and Analytics

Discussion and Next Steps

Quick Review: January 16, 2025 LUAC discussion on Planning Assistance Options



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
TOTALS	50	\$ 1,035,000	70	\$ 1,898,000

Past 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 the overall NTC of a community
 - In 2040, the criteria was 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]

Eligibility Criteria and Options for Grants and Small Communities Program – as presented to LUAC on January 16, 2025

	NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)	30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median	Current Population	# of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance
Planning Assistance Grants				
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
Small Communities Program				
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	21
Level 3	Less/equal to 175% metro median		Under 500	13

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.

Analysis of Planning Assistance Options



Elements of Analysis

Who Needs Help?

- Which communities need the most help with Comprehensive Plan updates?
- Talked to internal staff and consultants who worked with a range of communities during 2040.
 - Population and financial capacity identified as biggest determinants of need.

Simplify Options

- Reduce overlap in eligibility between options.
- Consolidate options:
 - Revised to 1 option for grant eligibility that serves small and medium size communities.
 - Revised to 1 option for Small Communities Program.

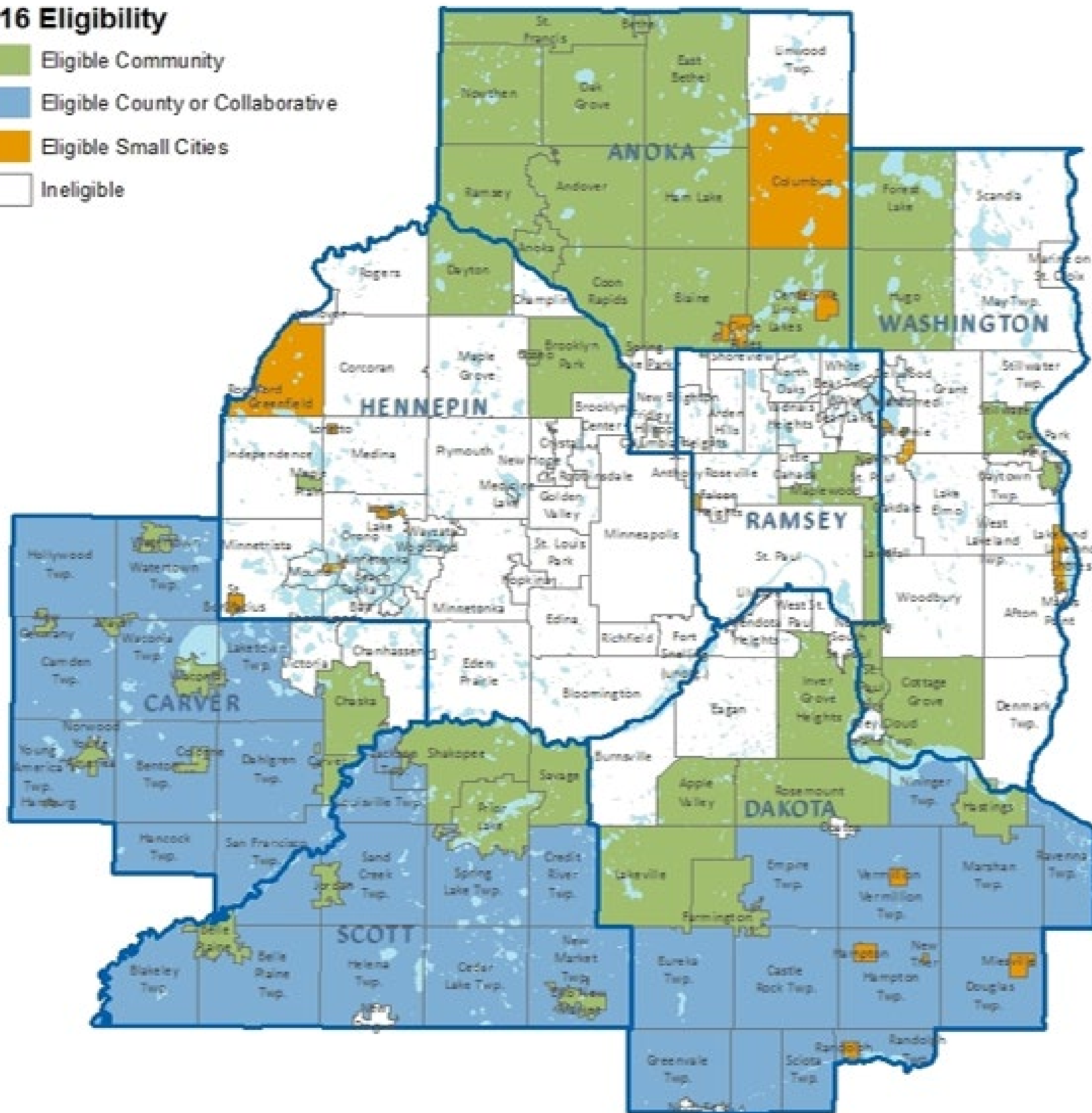
Analytics

- Under revised grant options, focus of support shifts.
 - Same number of communities eligible for grants (63*).
 - More small and medium size communities served; largest cities not eligible.
 - More older, slower growing, and financially constrained communities served.

* An additional 21 townships are served under the “County” grants to Scott and Carver.

2016 Eligibility

- Eligible Community
- Eligible County or Collaborative
- Eligible Small Cities
- Ineligible



2040 Thrive grants primarily served rural and suburban communities

Revised Planning Assistance Options and Analytics



Criteria for Planning Assistance

2040 Grant Criteria

Current population less than or equal to 5,000
&
Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 125% metro median

OR

30-Year Growth Rate greater than or equal to metro median
&
Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 100% metro median

2050 Grant Criteria

Current population 2,500 – 14,999
&
Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 125% metro median

OR

Current population 15,000 – 35,000
&
Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 100% metro median

2050 Small Communities Program Criteria

Current population under 500 &
NTC/capita \leq 175%

OR

Current population 500 - 999 & NTC/capita \leq 150%

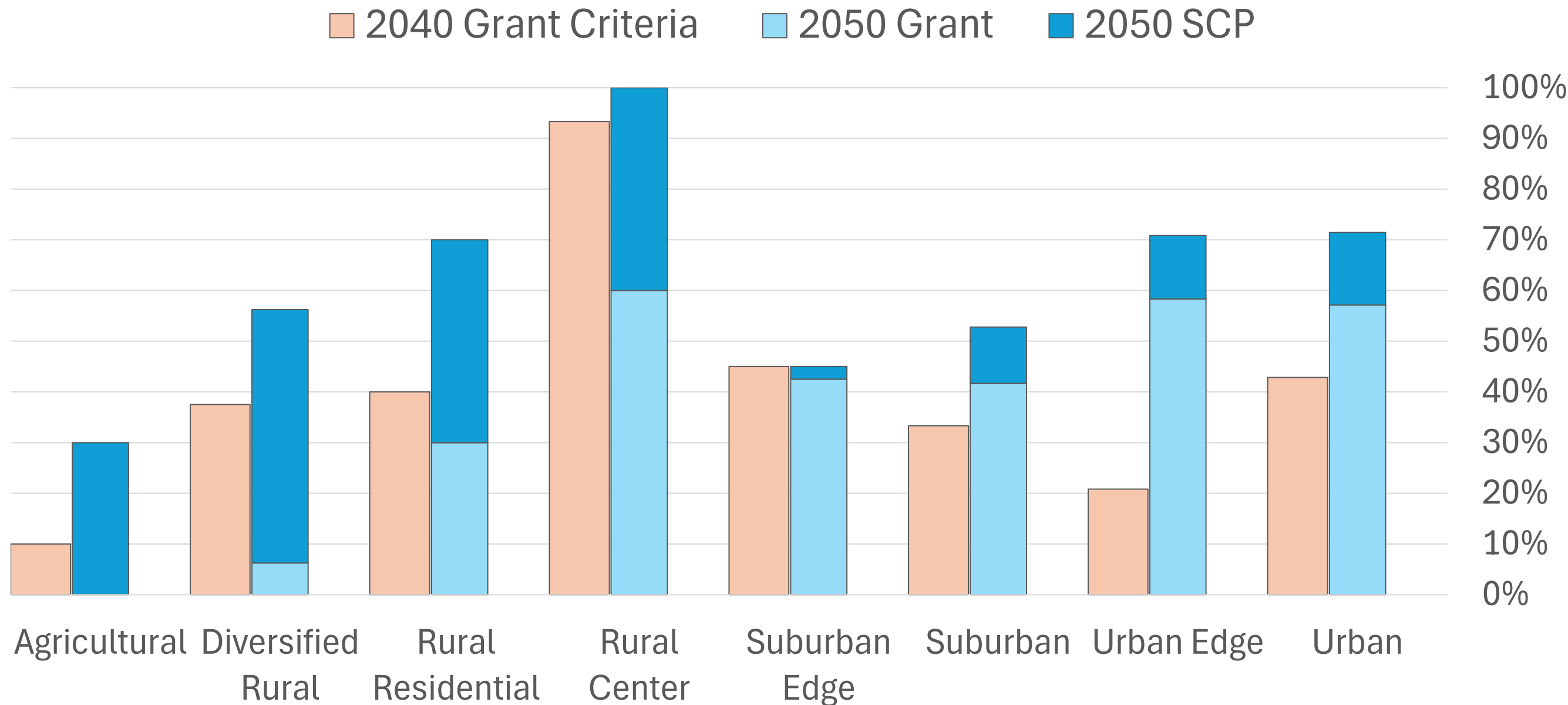
OR

Current population \leq 1,000 to 2,500 &
NTC/capita \leq 125%

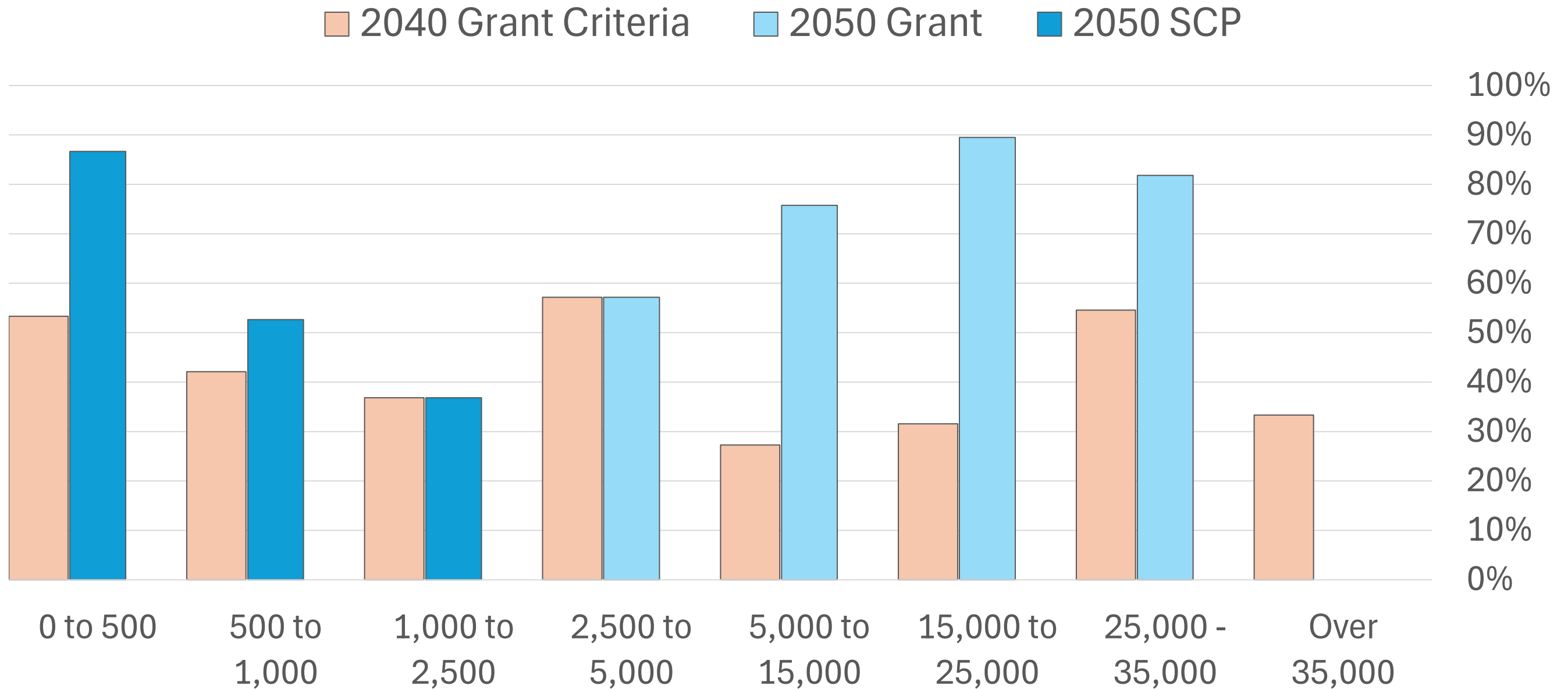
Planning Assistance eligibility criteria and communities served - 2040 and 2050 criteria

	Current Population	NTC/capita (metro median = 100%)	30-year Population Growth Rate compared to metro median	# of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance
Planning Assistance Grants				
2040 Planning Grant <i>Current Eligibility</i>	Less/equal to 5,000	Less/equal to 125% metro median		63
	OR			
		Less/equal to 100% metro median	Greater/equal to metro median	
2050 Planning Grant <i>Proposed Eligibility</i>	2,500 to 14,999	Less/equal to 125% metro median		63
	OR			
	15,000 to 35,000	Less/equal to 100% metro median		
2040 <u>and</u> 2050 Planning Grants <i>County/Consortium</i>		County or consortium of 5+ communities working collaboratively on Comp Plan updates		At least 2
Small Communities Program				
2050 Planning Assistance: <i>Proposed Small Communities Program Eligibility</i>	Under 500	Less/equal to 175% metro median		30
	OR			
	500 to 999	Less/equal to 150% metro median		
	OR			
	1,000 to 2,500	Less/equal to 125% metro median		

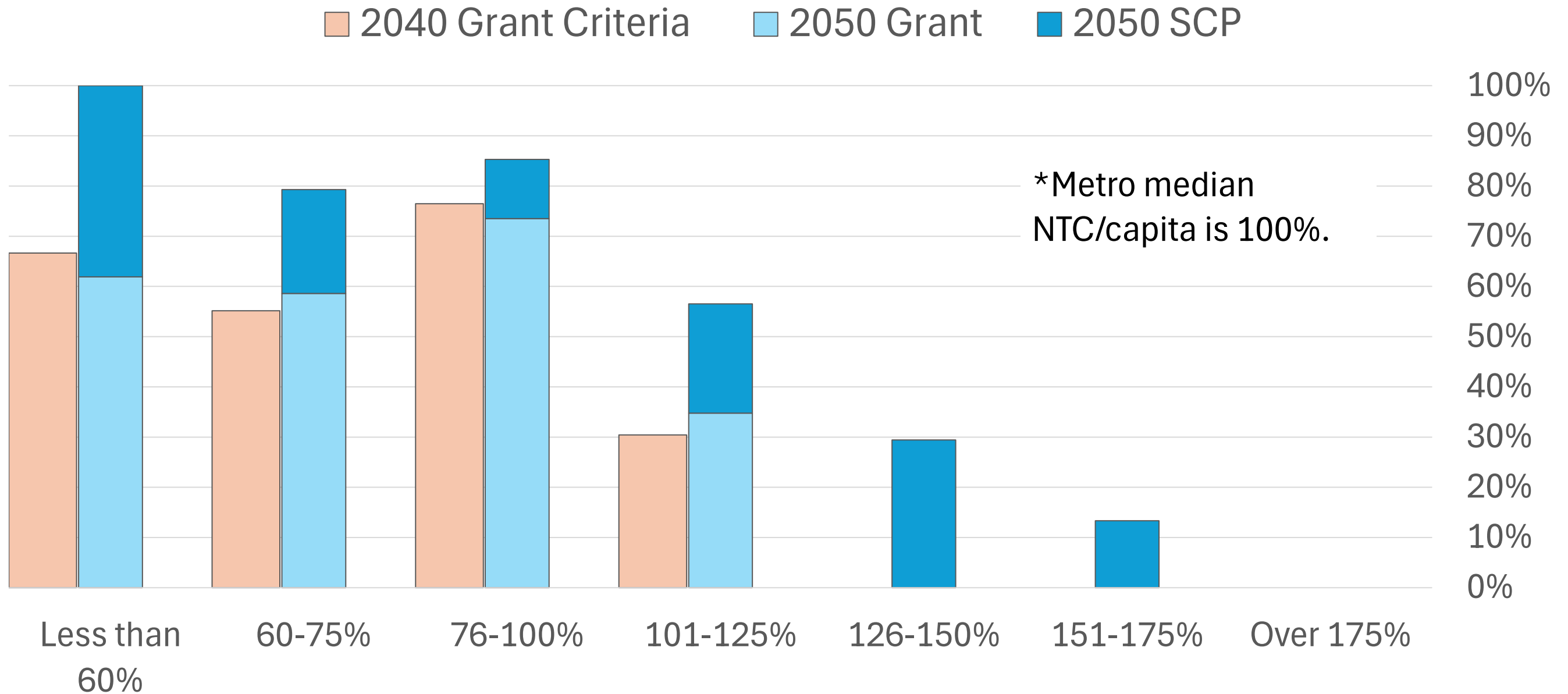
% of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance by Community Designation



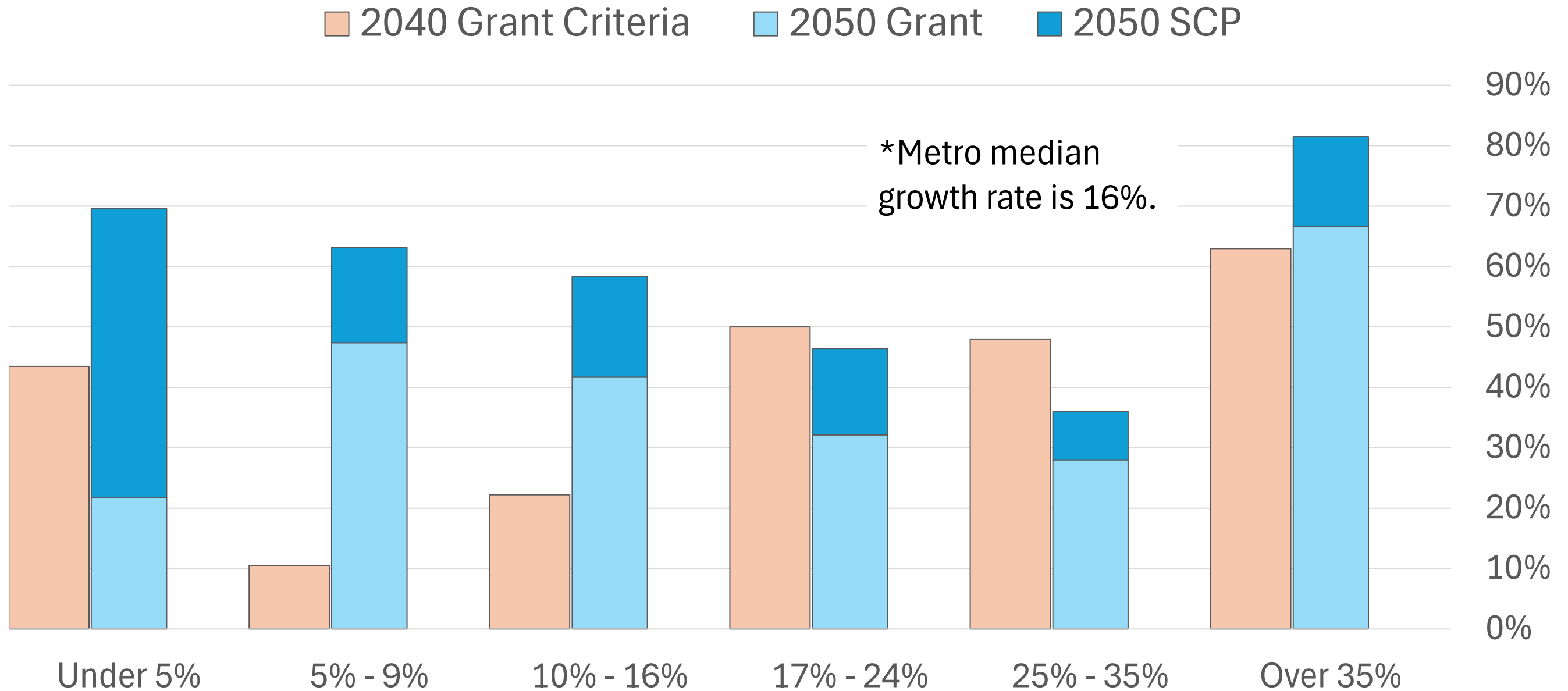
% of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance by Current Population Size



% of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance by Net Tax Capacity per Capita*



% of Communities Eligible for Planning Assistance by 30-Yr Population Growth Rate*



Discussion and Next Steps



Discussion



Question Prompts

1. What feedback do you have about the proposed grant eligibility criteria for the 2050 planning cycle?
2. Do you want to provide a similar number grants for the Imagine 2050 planning cycle as for the 2040 planning cycle (about 63 grants)?
3. What additional information would be helpful to inform consideration of Comprehensive Plan update planning assistance for the 2050 planning cycle?

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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