

Metropolitan Council

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 26, 2014

Subject: *Accept Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* for submittal as a deliverable for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

District(s), Member(s): ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: Grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Staff Prepared/Presented: Beth Reetz, Director of Housing and Livable Communities (651-602-1060), Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1135)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- *Accept Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* as the region's Fair Housing and Equity Assessment for submittal as a deliverable for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant;
- Direct staff to submit *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fulfill the grant expectations.

Background

In 2010, the Metropolitan Council received a \$5 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the grant U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). One of the deliverables of the grant is a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment, for which HUD defined the following goals:

- Analyze the region's racial and ethnic diversity
- Identify Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs) and High Opportunity areas
- Describe public investments and policies, including fair housing enforcement
- Describe how findings will inform key public policies

The Council has been working on the FHEA since fall 2011.

Rationale

Submitting *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* will fulfill the last deliverable of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

Funding

The Council completed the *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* using its own resources as an in-kind match to the HUD grant.

Known Support / Opposition

Through the process of developing the *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities* report, the Council offered opportunities for comments in July 2013 and February 2014. Council staff have worked to ensure that this final version responds to the comments received. There remains skepticism to this document from those who believe that the Council is not fully utilizing its authority to mandate or require more affordable housing in suburban locations.