

Committee Report

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: September 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-235

Funding Recommendations for 2024 Round Two Livable Communities Act Policy Development Grants

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council award one (1) Livable Communities Act Policy Development Grant totaling \$50,000 as shown Table 1 below.

Table 1. Recommended Grant Projects and Funding Amounts

Applicant	Recommended Project	Award Amount
City of Hugo	Single Family and Multi-Family Residential Standards and Policy Revisions	\$50,000

Summary of Community Development Committee Discussion/Questions

Planning Analyst Hannah Gary presented the Business Item. Council Members expressed support for the recommendation and for the work the City of Hugo is undertaking to achieve their goals. Council Member Johnson asked about returning applications from the 2024 Round One Policy Development funding round. Staff agreed to speak with grantees from the previous round to inquire about interest in future applications.

Motion by Vento, seconded by Wulff. Motion carried.

Business Item

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District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Livable Communities Act (Minn. Stat. § 473.25)
Staff Prepared/Presented: Hannah Gary, Planning Analyst, 651.602.1633
Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

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Background

The Livable Communities Act (LCA) supports Metropolitan Council priorities through the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) by funding projects that connect jobs, transit, services, and housing in efficient and effective ways. The Council adopted the 2024 LCA Policy Development guidelines, criteria, schedule, and evaluation process as part of the Annual Livable Communities Act Fund Distribution Plan ([Business Item 2024-41](#)) on February 14, 2024. This program supports locally adopted policies that further LCA goals and have an impact on physical development in the applicant city.

On July 22, 2024, the Council received one application for Policy Development funding from the City of Hugo. A staff review of the application found it to be eligible for funding. Project details are included in the attached project summary.

Rationale

As detailed in the Review Process section of this report, the recommended projects and award amounts meet the funding award criteria for the program. As outlined in the 2024 Fund Distribution Plan, the Council has two rounds of LCA Policy Development funding in 2024, with up to \$100,000 available in each round. There is an award limit of \$50,000 per city for Policy Development awards. Unallocated funds will be available for future programming.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Projects that demonstrate efficient and effective use of public financial resources further the Thrive

Stewardship Outcome.

Projects that redevelop and increase density further the Thrive Prosperity outcome of “[e]ncouraging redevelopment and infill development across the region.”

Projects that provide a mix of housing affordability levels further the Thrive Equity outcome of “[c]reating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability.”

Projects that introduce more housing types and affordability levels in existing neighborhoods further the Thrive Livability outcome of “[p]roviding housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means.”

Funding

Funds are available in the Livable Communities authorized 2024 budget and Livable Communities reserve accounts to award these grants. Reserves may need to be amended into a future annual budget to meet cashflow needs on Livable Communities multi-year grants.

Known Support / Opposition

All applicants have submitted a statement of support from their City Council or other authorizing body.

Review Process

The Council issued a notice of funding availability in February 2024 after adopting the 2024 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. Staff held informational webinars, distributed information about funding availability and met with applicants to discuss the LCA processes, criteria, and best program fit for their policy proposals.

One application was submitted, as shown in Table 2. Council staff conducted a preliminary review for completeness and eligibility, then used Council-approved criteria to evaluate each application in the following areas: Policy Development Outcomes, Policy Development Process, and Policy Development Team. The results of the staff evaluation are shown in Table 3.

Table 2. Application Summary

Grant Category	Submitted Applications	Applications Meeting Minimum Score	Applications recommended for funding
LCA Policy Development	1	1	1

Table 3. Scoring Summary

Applicant	Project	Points	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
City of Hugo	Single Family and Multi-Family Residential Standards and Policy Revisions	28	\$50,000	\$50,000

Total Recommended **\$50,000**

Total Available \$100,000

Total Remaining \$50,000



Projects Recommended for Funding

A summary of the recommended funding award is on the following page.



Livable Communities Project Summary

Grant # SG
Type: LCA Policy Development
Applicant: City of Hugo
Project Name: Single Family and Multi-Family Residential Standards and Policy Revisions
Council District: 11 - Cederberg

Project Detail	
Project Overview	The single family and multi-family zoning standards and policy review will include zoning district standard analysis, evaluation of commercially zoned property that could include higher density housing, sustainability practices, and implementation of streamlined processes for development.
Use of Funds	
Award Amount	Uses and Deliverables
\$50,000	Consultant time: Update to housing study and updated ordinance to be presented to City Council for approval

