

COLLABORATING ON HOUSING

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

Connecting with others around meeting housing needs in our communities creates opportunities for cities, counties, the Metropolitan Council and other stakeholders to learn from one another. Fortunately, many organized networking and collaborations already exist. Take advantage of the rich experiences and wealth of knowledge available throughout the region and enhance your community's ability to create a full range of housing choices. Local collaborations addressing housing issues include:

- [Metro Cities](#) represents cities across the metropolitan area at the State Legislature and at the Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities members help inform various regional and legislative policy positions through policy committees, including a Housing and Economic Development Committee. The association also holds regional forums on issues such as housing to share information and best practices from across the region.
- The [Regional Council of Mayors \(RCM\)](#), supported by the Urban Land Institute Minnesota (ULI-MN), is a voluntary opportunity for mayors to convene and focus on shared and regionally important issues, including housing. Since 2004, the RCM has grown from eight participating mayors to 53 mayors. If your community's mayor does not participate, consider joining the RCM for the breadth and depth of knowledge around housing issues and best practices.
- If your local government has its own Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) or Community Development Agency (CDA), you can participate in ULI-MN's Regional County HRA/CDA Committee, which meets quarterly and examines housing challenges through the lens of HRA/CDA authorities. Contact [ULI MN](#) for more information.
- Another collaborative opportunity for local jurisdictions with their own HRA or CDA is the [Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials \(MN NAHRO\)](#). MN NAHRO offers tools, training and technical assistance to communities furthering housing and community development needs.
- If your local government has a Community Development Director or similar staff position, explore participation in the ULI MN's Community Development Council, which meets quarterly. An invitation-only group, the Community Development Council is a safe, confidential place to discuss the challenges and opportunities of community development with other Community Development Directors. For more information, contact [ULI MN](#).
- ULI MN also convenes a Housing Council, which includes various housing stakeholders, including public sector, non-profit sector, and private sector experts in housing development and preservation. Local government housing staff is encouraged to participate. For more information, contact [ULI MN](#).
- For a deeper dive into a particular housing theme, ULI MN hosts an annual Housing Summit, usually in June, which tackles a timely housing issue with keynote speakers in a half-day gathering. Visit ULI MN's [Upcoming Events](#) webpage to learn more about the next Housing Summit.
- The Housing Collaborative Institute (HCI), convened by Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Twin Cities LISC), covers a variety of housing related topics in monthly meetings. [HCI's 2016 meetings](#) included topics such as community engagement strategies, accessory dwelling units, and mixed-use case studies. Twin Cities LISC often hosts other housing discussions as well; check www.TCLISC.org for current offerings.
- The [Minnesota chapter of the American Planning Association](#) offers webinars, seminars, and conferences as opportunities to both learn about community development topics such as housing and connect with other planners and government officials.
- The [Sensible Land Use Coalition \(SLUC\)](#) brings together public and private sector professionals to address land use policy decisions through monthly gatherings that focus on particular planning topics, including housing.

If the efforts above don't meet your needs, consider organizing a group that does. Various sub-regional collaborations among adjacent communities have formed around the region. Contact your Sector Representative for assistance in organizing your own group.

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