

Why is the Metropolitan Council writing a Housing Policy Plan?

- To support *Thrive MSP 2040*—the Metropolitan Council’s regional development guide
- To align housing policy with regional systems such as transit, regional parks, transportation, and water resources
- To provide clear leadership and guidance on regional housing needs and challenges; when adopted, the Housing Policy Plan will be the first such document adopted since 1985
- To set review guidelines for each community’s local comprehensive plan and grant applications for housing development funds
- To acknowledge the changing demographics of our region’s residents and how these changes will shape future housing need

The goal of our Housing Policy Plan is to create *housing options that give people in all life stages and of all economic means* viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes.

Does the metropolitan region need more affordable housing?

- Between now and 2040, the region will add 391,000 households; roughly 40% will earn less than 80% of area median income (\$63,900 for a family of 4).
- At present, one-third of the region’s households pay more than 30% of their income on rent— they are “housing cost burdened”.
- Over the last 10 years, 20% of new units in the region have been affordable. In 2012, 9% of new housing units were affordable.

What are the priorities of the Housing Policy Plan?

- **Preserve existing housing stock**, which is generally the most affordable housing.
- **Create or preserve a mix of housing affordability around emerging transit investments**, helping low-income households benefit from transit investments and expanding opportunities to reduce the costs of Housing + Transportation.
- **Encourage redevelopment and infill development** to meet the region’s housing need and create a denser, more compact region.
- **Expand housing options for people in all life stages and of all economic means through a balanced approach** of expanding housing choices for low- and moderate-income households in higher-income areas and enhancing the livability of low-income neighborhoods.
- **Promote environmentally-sustainable and healthy buildings, construction techniques, and development patterns** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow resiliency to the impacts of climate change.
- **Reduce institutional and financing barriers to the development of mixed-income housing** to create vibrant, diverse communities that offer choices to a range of households.
- **Reduce or eliminate impediments to fair housing** to address how discriminatory lending practices and real estate steering are limiting housing choices across the region.
- **Build wealth and expand investment in Areas of Concentrated Poverty** so that every Twin Cities resident can live in a community rich with opportunity.

For more information about the Housing Policy Plan, visit thriveMSP.org



Where can I see a draft of the Housing Policy Plan?

The Metropolitan Council has released a draft of the *2040 Housing Policy Plan* for public comment. The draft plan can be found at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Housing/Planning/Housing-Policy-Plan.aspx>.

The public is encouraged to view the draft plan and provide public comment, through **Friday, September 26**, as follows (comments must be received by **5 p.m.**):

- Written comments: Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, 55101
- Send TTY comments to: 651-291-0904
- Email: public.info@metc.state.mn.us
- Record comments on Council's Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- Submit comments through the Council's online 'Your Ideas' site, at <http://yourideas.metrocouncil.org/>.

*The Metropolitan Council will hold one public hearing on the 2040 Housing Policy Plan:
on **Monday, September 15, 5 p.m.***

*Metropolitan Council Chambers
390 Robert Street North, St. Paul
Served by many regional transit routes*

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and offer comments. Those attending may register in advance to speak by calling the Council at 651-602-1500. Upon request, the Metropolitan Council will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Advance notice, indicating the specific accommodation needed, is appreciated.

What are the next steps for the Housing Policy Plan?

The Council will review public comment and evaluate changes to the proposed policies to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final adoption of the *2040 Housing Policy Plan* will be considered by the Metropolitan Council in November.

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