

Promoting Affordable Housing

Cities are critical partners in addressing the affordable housing gap in Minnesota. MLC supports policies and funding to help increase the production of affordable options across the housing continuum.

Cities are proactively pursuing affordable housing strategies like:

- First generation down payment assistance to close homeownership gaps for minority populations
- HUD HOME Grant funds used on new construction and homeownership initiatives
- Inclusionary mixed-income housing policies that require all multi-family projects to include up to 10% of affordable units
- Encouraging low- to mid-priced home ownership through housing funds and city-owned real estate
- Creating R1-S zoning standards to encourage smaller homes built on smaller lots
- Modifying R-1 development standards to allow for a wider range of single- and two-family homes
- Partnering with counties and the Met Council to meet various housing needs through programs such as Livable Communities
- Adopting renter protection ordinances
- Offering density bonuses for projects supporting below market rents
- Constructing new single-family homes on infill lots at or below 80% AMI and preserving long-term affordability with deed restrictions for owner occupancy and resale restrictions
- Coordinating with other local governments on a Schools to Housing program to provide stable housing for students and families experiencing homelessness
- Collaborating with non-profits to provide housing program assistance, resources, and loan administration
- Offering multifamily affordable rental housing (4d) property tax reduction and energy efficiency grant programs



City leaders are eager to work with legislators to pass initiatives that produce more affordable housing options in our communities and protect existing taxpayers from shouldering the cost of growth.

