



# Small Communities Planning Program and 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Recommendations

Community Development Committee

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# Updates to Data and Eligibility

## 2023 → 2024 Population

- In June, Met Council updated current population from 2023 to 2024
- Change impacted who was eligible based on population changes and resulting shift in net tax capacity per capita:
  - Grant eligible communities increased from 63 to 68
  - Small Communities Planning Program eligible communities increased from 30 to 32

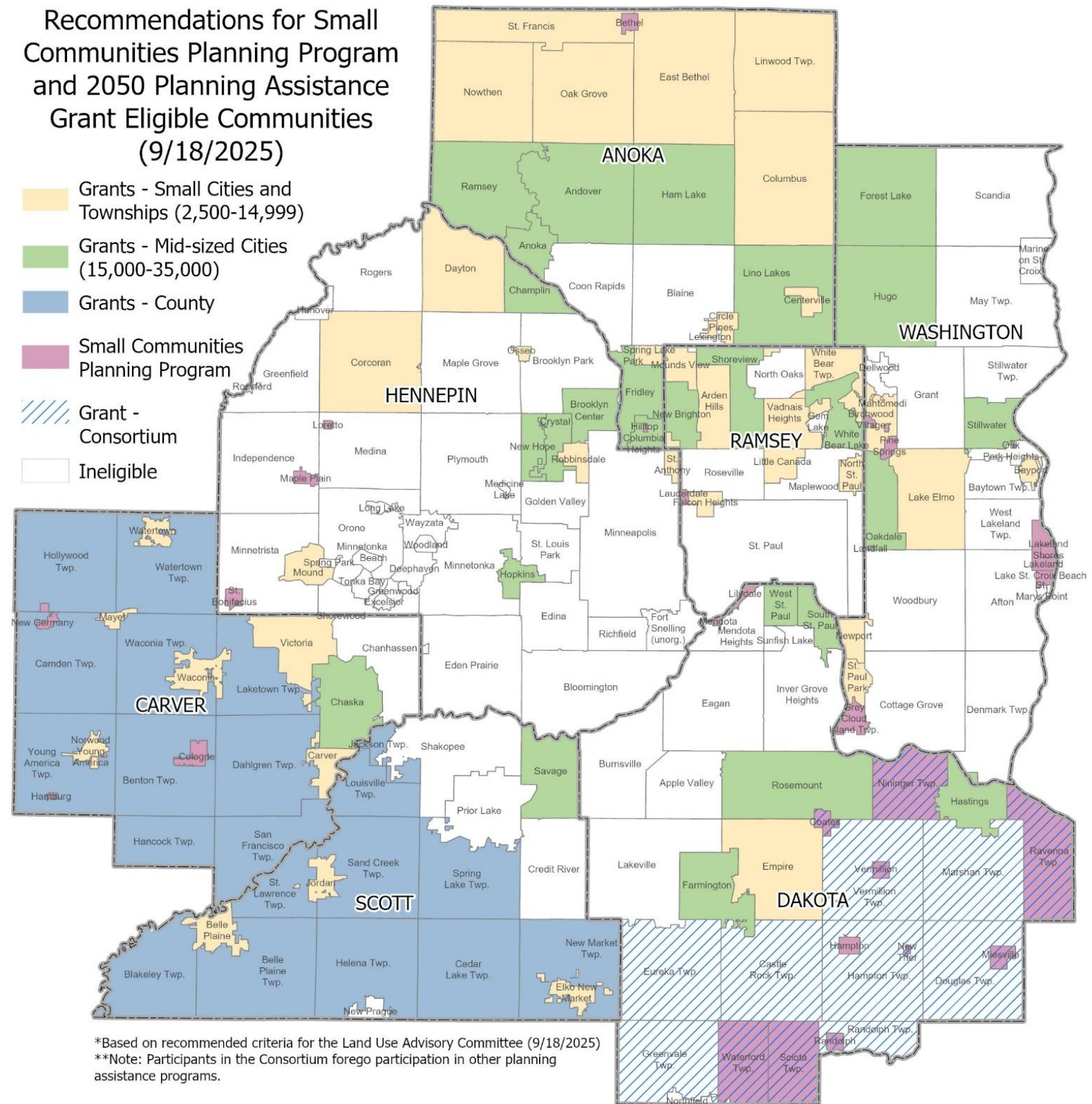
## 2024 NTC → 2024 ANTC

- In August, Met Council updated the 2024 Net Tax Capacity data with 2024 Adjusted Net Tax Capacity [ANTC] data
- Change impacted who was eligible based on small shifts in the metro median ANTC and the ANTC per capita calculations:
  - Grant eligible communities decreased from 68 to 64
  - Small Communities Planning Program eligible communities decreased from 32 to 29

# Analysis results

## Recommendations for Small Communities Planning Program and 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Eligible Communities (9/18/2025)

- Grants - Small Cities and Townships (2,500-14,999)
- Grants - Mid-sized Cities (15,000-35,000)
- Grants - County
- Small Communities Planning Program
- Grant - Consortium
- Ineligible



\*Based on recommended criteria for the Land Use Advisory Committee (9/18/2025)  
 \*\*Note: Participants in the Consortium forego participation in other planning assistance programs.

# Recommendations for 2050 Small Communities Program Eligibility Criteria

## 2050 Small Communities Program Recommendations

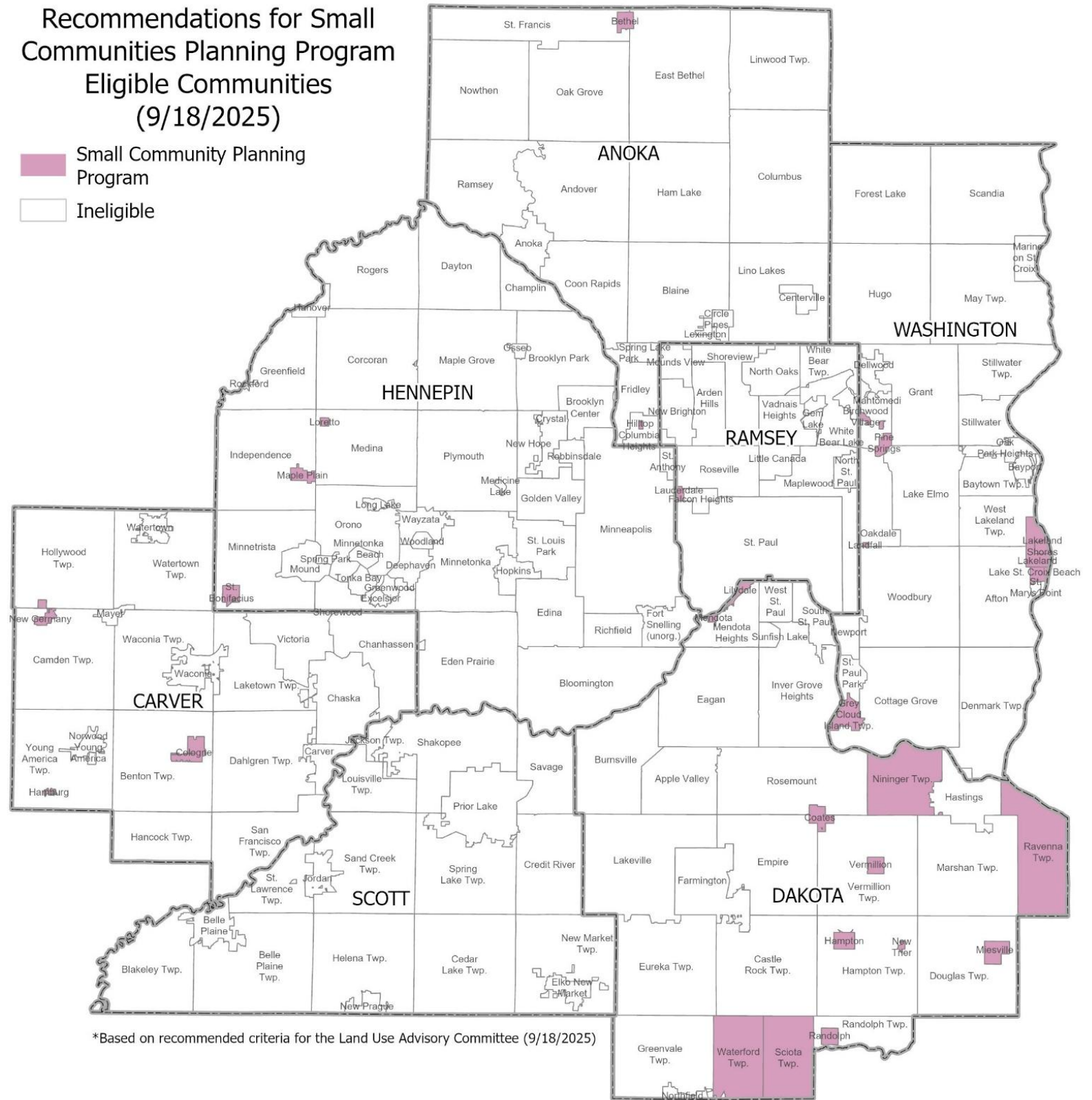
	Current Population (2024)	Adjusted Net Tax Capacity Per Capita (2024) (metro median = 100%)	# of Communities Eligible by Criteria	Total # of Communities Eligible for the Program
<b>General Eligibility Criteria</b>	Under 500	Less/equal to 175% metro median	12	29
	OR			
	500 to 999	Less/equal to 150% metro median	9	
	OR			
	1,000 to 2,500	Less/equal to 125% metro median	8	

*\*Note: Participants in the Planning Assistance Grant Program Consortium forego participation in this program.*

# Map of Recommendations for 2050 Small Communities Planning Program Eligibility

## Recommendations for Small Communities Planning Program Eligible Communities (9/18/2025)

- Small Community Planning Program
- Ineligible



\*Based on recommended criteria for the Land Use Advisory Committee (9/18/2025)

# Recommendations for 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria

## 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program Recommendations

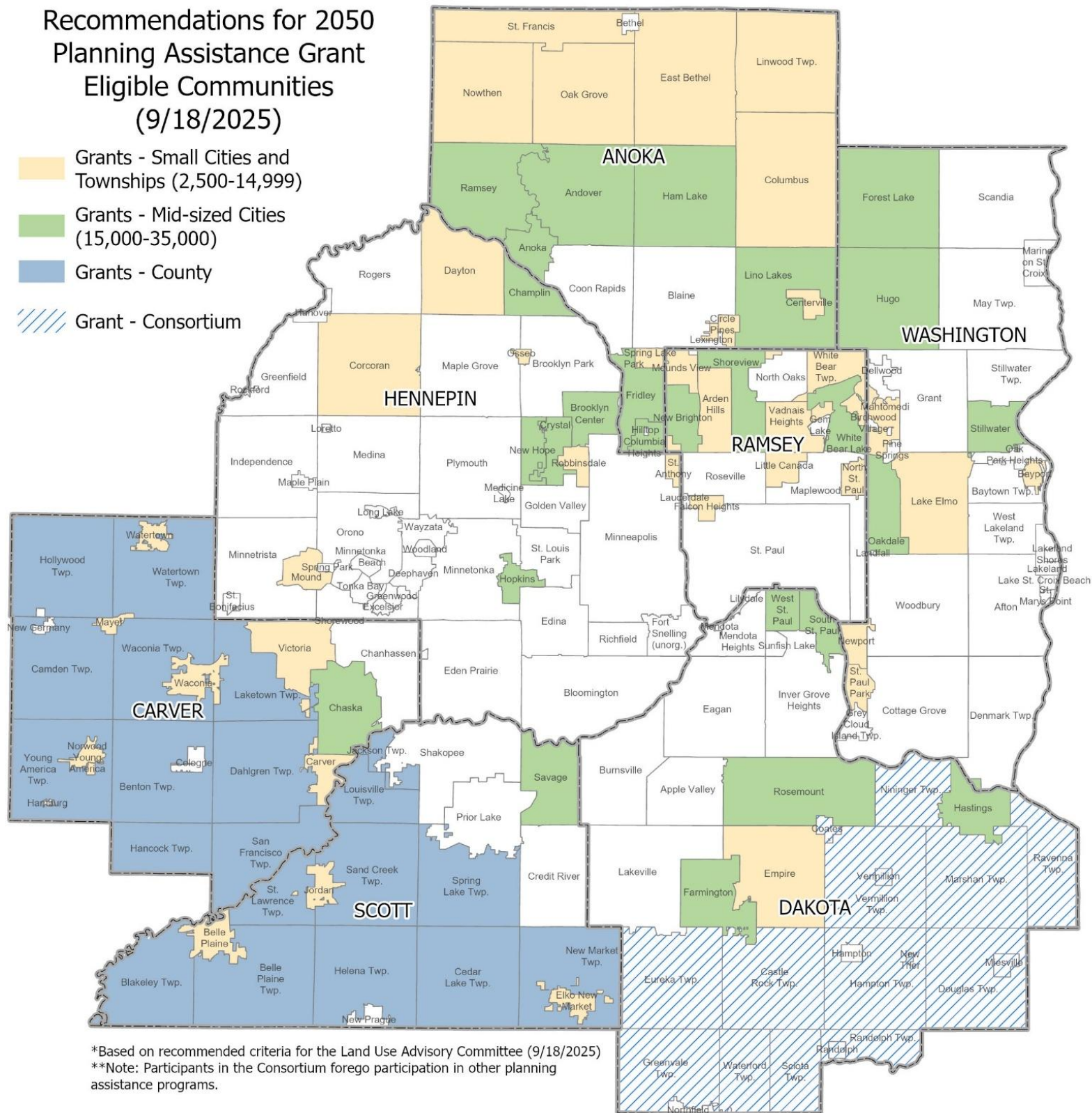
	Current Population (2024)	Adjusted Net Tax Capacity Per Capita (2024) (metro median = 100%)	# of Communities Eligible by Criteria	# Eligible for Planning Assistance Grant
<b>General Eligibility Criteria</b>	2,500 to 14,999	Less/equal to 125% metro median	38	64*
	OR			
	15,000 to 35,000	Less/equal to 100% metro median	26	
<b>County or Consortium Eligibility Criteria</b>	County with land use planning authority for townships within their jurisdiction		20 townships and 2 counties	2 counties
	OR			
	Consortium of 5 or more Dakota County communities in the Rural Service Area working collaboratively on their comprehensive plan updates*		17	1 group

\*Note: Participants in the Consortium forego participation in the Small Communities Planning Program.

# Map of Recommendations for 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Eligible Communities

## Recommendations for 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Eligible Communities (9/18/2025)

- Grants - Small Cities and Townships (2,500-14,999)
- Grants - Mid-sized Cities (15,000-35,000)
- Grants - County
- Grant - Consortium



\*Based on recommended criteria for the Land Use Advisory Committee (9/18/2025)  
 \*\*Note: Participants in the Consortium forego participation in other planning assistance programs.

# Recommendations

## Rationale

### Planning Assistance Grant Program

Minnesota Statutes Section 473.867, subd. 2, authorizes the Metropolitan Council to establish a Planning Assistance Fund to provide grants and loans to local units of government. The primary purpose is for reviewing and amending local comprehensive plans, fiscal devices, and official controls, as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. Planning grants facilitate the local planning process to ensure that the region continues to coordinate planning across all jurisdictions focusing on the local governments most in need.

### Small Communities Planning Program

Further, Minnesota Statutes Section 473.191, subd. 1, authorizes the Metropolitan Council to enter into contracts or make other arrangements with local government units to provide services or assist with comprehensive planning. The Small Communities Planning Program provides the smallest communities with the most demonstrated need in the region, with the highest level of technical assistance in order to ensure completion of decennial planning requirements.



# Small Communities Planning Program

## Proposed Action

After extensive analysis and discussion throughout 2025, the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and the Community Development Committee (CDC) forward these recommendations to the Metropolitan Council for their consideration:

1. To be eligible for the new 2050 Small Communities Planning Program, a community must meet one of the following three criteria:
  - a. Current population (2024) is under 500 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 175% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.  
OR
  - b. Current population (2024) is between 500 to 999 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 150% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.  
OR
  - c. Current population (2024) is between 1,000 and 2,500 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 125% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

# 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program

## Proposed Action

2. To be eligible for the 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program, a community must meet one of the following three criteria:
  - a. Current population (2024) is between 2,500 to 14,999 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 125% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.  
OR
  - b. Current population (2024) is between 15,000 to 35,000 AND adjusted net tax capacity (2024) per capita is less than or equal to 100% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.  
OR
  - c. County with land use planning authority for townships within their jurisdiction OR a consortium of 5 or more Dakota County communities in the Rural Service Area working collaboratively on their comprehensive plan updates.

Thank you

**Merritt Clapp-Smith**

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