

Livable Communities

Presentation to the Equity Advisory Committee



August 18, 2026

The Met Council's role in housing

Develop the region's Housing Policy Plan

We help cities/townships understand how much housing they need and how they can help build and preserve affordable homes

Review Comprehensive Plans

We review cities/townships' 10-year plans and coordinate with them to meet their part of the region's housing needs

Award Livable Community grant funds

Cities/townships, Counties, and Development Authorities can apply for grants to support housing development projects through an annual competitive process

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

We provide rent assistance and other supports to 7,200+ households across the region through Housing Vouchers

Livable Communities Program



Built on partnership. Developed for impact.

- Grant program established by the legislature in 1995.
- Incentivizes public-private partnerships to:
 - Build and maintain a full range of housing choices
 - Ensure residents can meet their needs in their communities
 - Improve safety
- In 2026, \$27.5 million is available for awards

Livable Communities Grants

Funding projects across the development continuum

Set Conditions for Development

Development



Policy and Affordable
Housing Program
Development



Small Area Planning



Development

Early-Stage

- Pre-Development
- Site Investigation

Construction-Stage

- Environmental Cleanup
- Homeownership
- Rental, Mixed-Use, Commercial

Implementing Equity

Access to Funding

- Small-scale projects are competitive with large projects
- Projects in all community designations are eligible
- Priority for development projects led by emerging developers of color
- 10% of grant award can go towards developer costs

Impacted Populations

- Projects scored by the Livable Communities Advisory Committee
- Projects serving American Indian people are led by an American Indian organization
- Benefits to people who are BIPOC, people with disabilities, or experienced homelessness

Expanding Housing Choice

- Require cities to have a Fair Housing Policy
- Require rental housing projects to accept tenant-based vouchers
- Prioritize housing at the affordability bands needed in participating cities

Livable Communities Accomplishments



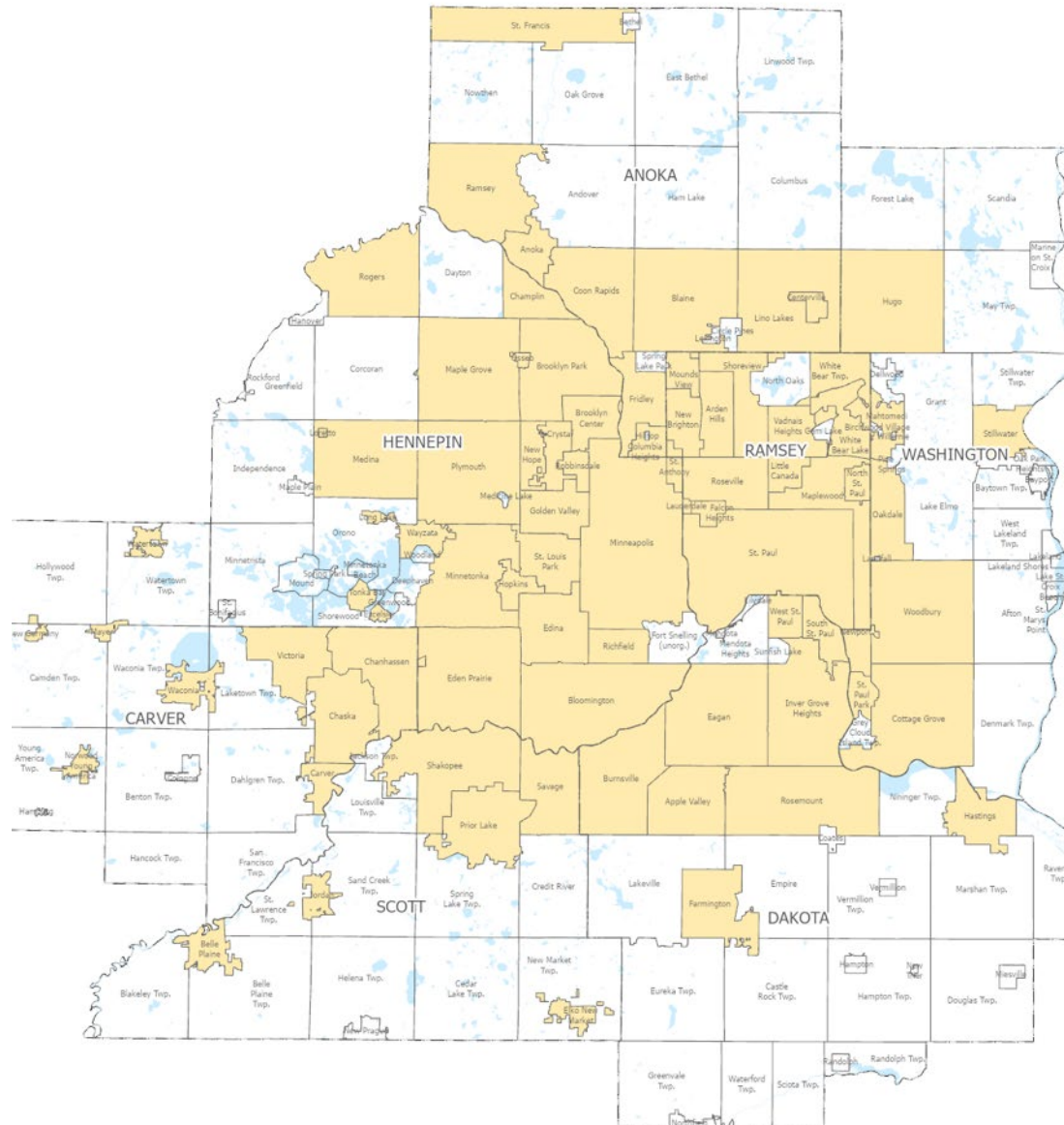
Celebrating 30 years!

- **Awarded \$580+ million** to more than 1,100 local projects
- Helped build or preserve **58,000+ homes**
 - More than 25,000 of which are affordable to households living on 60% of the area median income or less
 - More than 4,500 of which have 3+ bedrooms
- Helped **clean more than 1,300 acres** of contaminated land
 - Which, in addition to health and safety benefits, helped increase the region's tax base by more than \$140 million annually
- Supported more than **25,000 jobs**

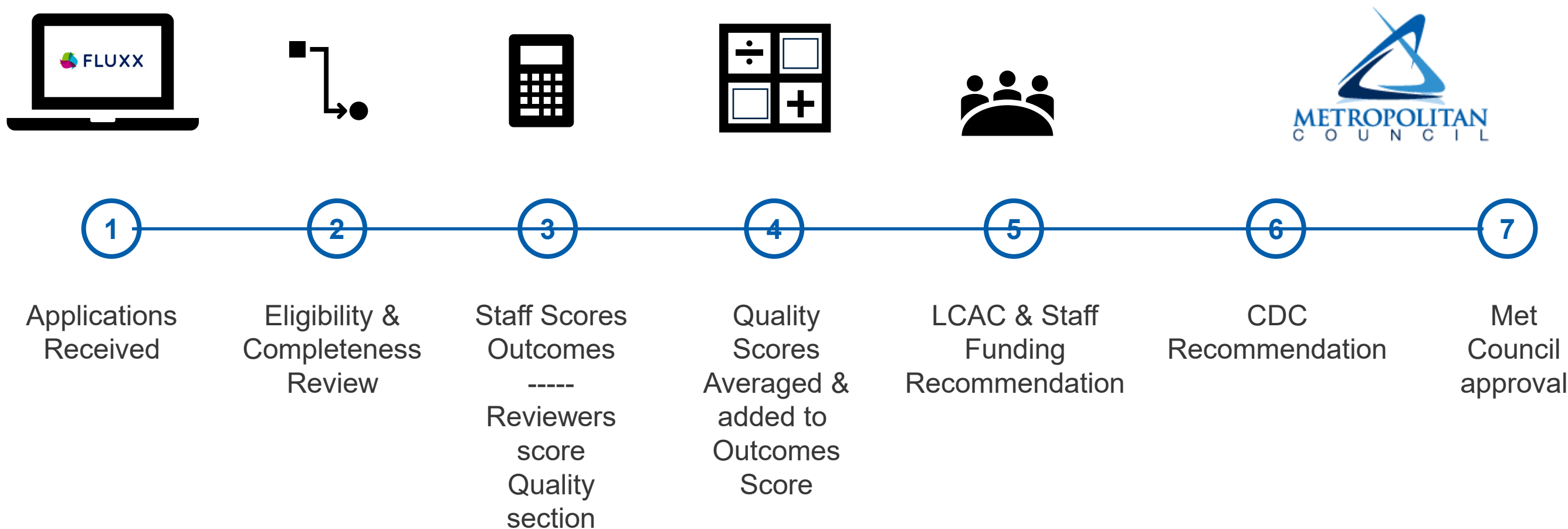
Participating Cities & Townships

Where can Livable Communities grant dollars go?

- Livable Communities grants can only be awarded to **enrolled cities and townships or to counties or development authorities** for projects in participating cities or townships.
- For most grant awards, there is a **public-private partnership** to channel the Livable Communities award into the development project.



Grant Review Process



Livable Communities Advisory Committee & Staff

Committee

- Michael Giovanis – Consultant
- Jason Gottfried – Transportation Planning Professional
- Libin Hashi – Social Service Provider and Developer
- Stephanie Hawkinson – City of Edina
- Aron Johnson – DJR Architecture
- Nate Kabat – City of Chaska
- Roxanne Kimball – Minnesota Homeownership Center
- Nichole Klonowski – City of Brooklyn Park
- Susan Olmsted – The Olmsted Workshop
- William Price, Sr. – Project for Pride in Living
- Valerie Quarles – City of Saint Paul
- Matthew Ramadan – City of Minneapolis
- Suzanne Schefcik – Colliers
- Der Yang – Greater Twin Cities United Way



Twin Lakes – Roseville

Fairview and Co Rd C

Industrial to Housing & Amenities

- 275 acres of underutilized trucking terminals and manufacturing space
- City and partners plan a mixed-use community and seek Met Council support
- Awarded 10 Livable Communities grants between 1996 and 2021 for \$4.18M
- Now has 277 affordable homes for seniors, a bank, food, entertainment, and pre-K space



Photo Credit: RentCafe.com

American Indian Corridor – Minneapolis *Franklin Avenue*

Culturally Specific Housing and Healthcare

- Awarded more than \$20M to the area over the last 30 years
- Awards supported more than 1000 affordable homes
- The corridor is anchored by the Native American Community Clinic and Housing and the Minneapolis American Indian Center
- Connection to the Blue Line



The Artery – Hopkins

8th Avenue, Excelsior Blvd to Mainstreet

Connecting transit to downtown

- Pedestrian- and bike-friendly corridor filled with public art to connect the Green Line Extension station to downtown
- Connects two regional trails
- Includes affordable rental housing so the area can be enjoyed by all
- Nearly 10 years of planning and construction



Rise Up Center (fka Uptown YWCA)

Lake and Hennepin - Minneapolis

Job training for union careers

- Planned “Green Training” pre-apprenticeship program for construction trades, among other training programs
- 70,000 square feet of space led by Unidos MN, The New Justice Project, and SEIU Local 26
- Estimated the center will train 3,000 people per year



2026 Round 1 Award Highlights

More than \$12M awarded

- First awards made since streamlining and updating the program to align with Imagine 2050
- 34 projects in 21 cities funded
- Projects will:
 - Build or preserve more than 1,100 affordable rental homes
 - Create 40 affordable homeownership opportunities
 - Clean up nearly 32 acres of contaminated land



How you can help

Use your voice

- Projects that align with Imagine 2050 goals are happening in communities across the region; voice your support for them at neighborhood, planning, and city council meetings—even if the Met Council isn't involved (yet)

Be the connector

- Help projects in your community connect with Met Council resources—Application due dates April 15 or October 15
- Encourage cities and townships to enroll in the program

Serve & Recruit

- Provide advice in your role
- Help recruit members for the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (or apply yourself!)



Thank you

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