



2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program and Small Communities Planning Program: Funding Award Recommendations

Land Use Advisory Committee

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November 20, 2025

Recommended Funding Scenario

Rationale

- Minor reduction in planning grant awards far outweighed by benefit to small communities
- Prevents disinvestment in wastewater and water supply facilities in region's smallest communities
- Difference between Scenarios B and C from Scenario A (baseline) is a 34% increase and a 25% increase, respectively, over what was provided in the previous planning cycle

| # of Eligible Participants* | Community type | Scenario A | | Scenario B | | Recommended: Scenario C | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | | 2040 Plan Levels | Total | Inflation-Adjusted | Total | Adjusted for Programs | Total |
| 60 | Sewered | \$32,000 | \$1,920,000 | \$43,000 | \$2,580,000 | \$40,000 | \$2,400,000 |
| 4 | Unsewered | \$20,000 | \$80,000 | \$27,000 | \$108,000 | \$25,000 | \$100,000 |
| 3 | County/Consortium | \$84,000 | \$252,000 | \$112,000 | \$336,000 | \$110,000 | \$330,000 |
| 67 | | | \$2,252,000 | | \$3,024,000 | | \$2,830,000 |

*Based on eligibility criteria adopted by the Council on 10/22/2025

Overall Program Budget for Recommendation (corrected)

Overall 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Fund Budget is \$5.64 Million

| Programs | Overall Budget Based on Recommended Award Scenario (C) |
|---|--|
| Planning Assistance Grant Program | \$2,830,000 |
| Incentive Grants Opt-in Program | \$938,000 |
| Small Communities Planning Program | \$1,870,500 |
| Wastewater Plan Estimated Costs | \$982,000 |
| Water Supply Plan Estimated Costs | \$294,000 |
| Surface Water Management Plan Estimated Costs | \$594,500 |
| | \$5,638,500 |
| Remaining Budget | \$1,500 |

Funding Priorities for the Small Communities Planning Program

Engineering Cost Estimates by Community Type

- Recommendation for a not-to-exceed (NTE) engineering budget allocation for program participants.
- Cost estimates are based on type of community services (below), expected planning effort, and need.
- Prioritizes small communities and provides the highest allocation possible within overall program budget.

| Type of Community Services | # of comms | Wastewater+ Water Supply Estimates | Recommendation Scenario C | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Addl \$20,500 for Surface Water Mgmt | Estimated Total Cost |
| Sewered + Public (municipal) water supply | 10 | \$76,000 | \$96,500 | \$965,000 |
| Sewered + Public water supply from neighbor | 3 | \$63,000 | \$83,500 | \$250,500 |
| Sewered + Private water supply (wells) | 2 | \$61,000 | \$81,500 | \$163,000 |
| Unsewered +Public (municipal) water supply | 3 | \$26,000 | \$46,500 | \$139,500 |
| Unsewered + Public water supply from neighbor | 3 | \$13,000 | \$33,500 | \$100,500 |
| Unsewered + Private water supply (wells) | 8 | \$11,000 | \$31,500 | \$252,000 |
| | 29 | | | \$1,870,500 |

Planning Assistance Incentive Grants

Advancing Regional Goals

- People-centered regional goals:
 - Our region is equitable and inclusive.
 - Our communities are healthy and safe.
 - Our region is dynamic and resilient.
- Opportunities to support Regional Goal Frameworks for Equity, Environmental Justice, Anti-Displacement, Community Centered Engagement, and Commitments to American Indian communities
- **Recommendation:**
\$10,000 each grant eligible community

Process Efficiencies: Early Plan Submission

- Statute requires Council to provide its completeness determination in 15 business days which challenges technical reviewer capacity
- Staggered deadline spreads out plan submissions
 - Increases efficiency and accuracy in plan reviews
 - Allows Council staff to better serve local governments and continue high levels of service throughout the planning process
 - Supports better relationships with local governments
- **Recommendation:**
\$4,000 each grant eligible community

Examples of 2040 Plan's with Regional Goal Approaches



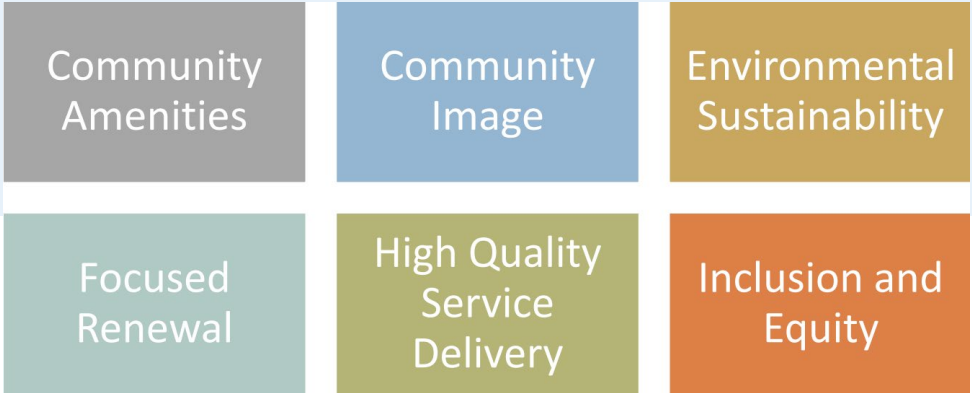
Belle Plaine (Destination 2040)

Vision: A perpetually sustainable, complete, and livable City for all people, seasons, and generations.

- Locally Led, Intentional, Conversation-Based Process
- Focus on Economics
- Overwhelming consensus priority = Sustained Growth
 - What makes that happen? = People & Spaces
 - What does each person need to be successful?
- Holistic, people-centered planning approach focused on community health, wellness & resilience

Bloomington (Forward 2040: Taking Shape Together)

- Racial Equity Vision Statement: The City of Bloomington will act courageously to advance Racial Equity. We will be a vibrant, safe, and healthy place where people of all races thrive.”
- Direct response to diversifying population, young residents
- City strategic priorities include:



Examples of 2040 Plan's with Regional Goal Approaches

Fridley (Framing Fridley)

Vision: We believe in a Fridley that is a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

- Focus on Fridley
- Look at co-benefits
- Responsibility to protect our assets
- What does success look like?
 - Aware of and empowered to access programs
 - Barriers are identified and dismantled
 - Projects snowball
 - Climate work becomes default



Osseo (Planning for Healthy Generations)

- Social Determinants of Health
- Five Health Themes
 - Access to healthy food
 - Physical activity and active living
 - Community safety
 - Social health and equity
 - Healthy natural and built environment
- Example: Healthy land use policy considers walkability, food access, transportation, and recreation.



Access to healthy food



Physical activity/
Active living



Community safety



Social health and equity



Healthy natural and built environment

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.

2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Set the grant award amounts for the 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program as follows:
 - a. The base award amounts for eligible communities are as follows:
 - i. Sewered communities: \$40,000
 - ii. Unsewered communities: \$25,000
 - iii. County or Consortium: \$110,000
 - b. Eligible Planning Assistance Grant Program participants may choose to opt-in to either or both of the following incentive grants:
 - i. Advancing Regional Goals: \$10,000
 - ii. Early Plan Completion: 4,000
 - iii. If an eligible participant opts into an incentive grant program and later either chooses not to or is unable to complete program requirements, they shall forfeit those grant dollars but there shall be no penalty.

Small Communities Planning Program

Proposed Action

2. Set the funding amounts for the 2050 Small Communities Planning Program as follows:
 - a. Each eligible community shall have an identified not-to-exceed (NTE) engineering budget allocation based on need and expected planning effort as determined by the type of wastewater and water supply services further described in Table 3 and Attachment 1 of this report.
 - b. Any additional engineering costs would be required to be the responsibility of the local government.



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