



Equitable Housing Planning & Development Grants

Promoting equitable housing means ensuring **diverse, quality, affordable housing choices with access to opportunities and amenities.**

The Metro Council seeks to inspire and foster innovative projects that support the creation of *equitable housing*—defined as diverse, quality, physically accessible, affordable housing choices with access to opportunities, services and amenities.

Local governments can adopt regulatory and administrative reforms, create incentive programs and partner with developers to eliminate barriers to equitable housing development on a specific site or in a general area.

As a subset of Metro's Community Planning and Development Grant program, Metro's Equitable Housing Planning and Development Grant ("Equitable Housing Grant") program will make \$500,000 available in 2016 to support local planning to eliminate barriers to equitable housing development.

Funding is made possible by a regional construction excise tax.

Who is eligible?

Cities and counties within the Portland regional urban growth boundary can apply for grants, either solely or in partnership with other government entities, nonprofit organizations or businesses.

Proposed projects must fulfill the following minimum requirements to be considered:

- The total grant request must be between \$50,000 and \$100,000.
- The proposed use of grant funds must be for planning and development; grants cannot be used to support general budget needs, construction or operating costs.
- Applicants must match grant funds with outside funding or in-kind services equivalent to 10 percent of the grant request.
- Applicants must provide a letter of endorsement from a governing body.
- See next page for eligible projects and evaluation criteria.

Timeline, website, contact

Letters of interest are due June 8, 2016, with full applications due August 12, 2016. The Metro Council will award grants in the fall.

Find the application handbook:
oregonmetro.gov/housinggrants

Questions? Contact Emily Lieb, program manager: 503-797-1921 or emily.lieb@oregonmetro.gov.

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

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Examples of eligible projects

Grants will be administered in accordance with the code and administrative rules that currently govern the CPDG program. Eligible Equitable Housing Grant projects fall into two categories:

- 1) Opportunity site identification and analysis: Conduct predevelopment work on potential affordable or mixed income housing development sites in centers and corridors (as identified in Title 6 of Metro's Urban Growth Management Functional Plan)

Examples of potential projects:

- *site identification*
- *environmental analysis and brownfield site assessments*
- *financial feasibility analysis and funding strategy development*
- *parking analysis*
- *schematic design*

- 2) Policy evaluation and implementation: Conduct evaluation and develop tools to support modification of local code, zoning or permitting processes or create incentives that eliminate barriers to equitable housing development.

Examples of potential projects:

- *zoning/code changes to eliminate barriers to the development of "missing middle" housing and creative infill housing, such as accessory dwelling units or cottage clusters*
- *evaluation and implementation of a regulatory or incentive program, such as Vertical Housing Tax Credits, tax exemptions for affordable units, or inclusionary zoning*
- *implementation of streamlined permitting for affordable housing*

Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on how well they achieve the goals of the Regional Framework Plan, which identifies regional policies to implement the 2040 Growth Concept.

Criteria include the following.

- expected development outcome
- regional significance
- ability to support vibrant Centers, Corridors, and Main Streets
- addressing the needs of underrepresented or underserved groups (equity)
- use of best practices
- leveraging past or future public and private investments, such as transit projects
- available matching funds
- absorbing projected growth in the community
- public involvement
- commitment for action by a governing body
- capacity of applicant

For detailed descriptions, download the handbook: oregonmetro.gov/housinggrants