

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: August 20, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 15, 2012
Subject:	Fair Housing Equity Assessment - Progress Update
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	None
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Katie Hatt, 602-602-1555
Division/Department:	Community Development/Housing and Livable Communities

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Overview

A core component of our region's HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant (SCPG) is to incorporate equity and fair housing analysis into regional planning.

FHEA is described as having three components or phases:

- **Data Analysis:** Select indicators to evaluate regional opportunity and access; trends analysis & mapping
- **Deliberations:** Involve region in dialogues on findings and engage in tough conversations
- **Decision-making:** "Bridge" findings and deliberations to the implementation of regional planning and use FHEA as a frame to inform strategy development, priority setting and investments in regional and local planning and budgeting.

Strategy & Process

To date, a project steering committee has been convened representing a wide range of regional interests and perspectives, including:

- Metropolitan Council: Housing Policy and Research staff
- Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota
- Housing Preservation Project (on behalf of a larger group of regional housing advocates)
- Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- The Access Group
- Fair Housing Implementation Council (regional entitlement communities)

This group has been meeting weekly since late June to map out the overall process and tee up key questions and issues in setting our proposed FHEA scope and approach.

Progress on the 3 D's:

Data Analysis: A first meeting of the Data and Mapping team was held this week. This team will lend expertise in shaping the first "D" over the coming months from a broad range of regional partners. CURA's Jeff Matson will teach a graduate-level GIS seminar

this fall (cross-listed in the Geography Department and the Humphrey School) which will support our work.

Deliberations: The steering team has had productive early conversations about creating an authentic and inclusive strategy that aligns various communities, equity-focused initiatives and networks, and local governments in the region. Significant time and energy will be devoted to add greater definition to this component of the work in the coming weeks.

Decision-making: An exciting opportunity for the third “D” – Decision-making – exists as we work to align our FHEA analysis and deliberations to inform the development of ThriveMSP, the region’s long-range planning guide, and the creation of regional systems and policy plans in 2013 and 2014. In a meeting with Sarita Turner of PolicyLink on August 3rd, which included additional PolicyLink and Kirwan Institute staff by phone, Sarita strongly encouraged our Steering Committee to connect FHEA work to ThriveMSP and Corridors of Opportunity as robustly as possible. This echoes advice from Mariia Zimmerman, past Deputy Director of HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, during and subsequent to her recent consultations with Council staff.