

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 21, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	May 16, 2012
Subject:	Fair Housing Equity Assessment - Introduction
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	None
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Katie Hatt, 651-602-1555
Division/Department:	Community Development / Housing & Livable Communities

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Overview

The Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is a project our region will undertake this year at the direction of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The FHEA is a required component of our region's participation in the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. This project offers an opportunity to build on success and learnings of Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement work to inform our approach to partnerships and process.

Through the FHEA process, Council staff will convene many partners in a three-part process: data analysis of regional indicators; deliberations about regional equity and access to opportunity; and decision making to integrate the FHEA findings into regional planning activities, including ThriveMSP 2040 and subsequent systems and policy plans.

The required FHEA assessment components will include the following:

- o Segregated areas and areas of increasing diversity and/or racial/ethnic segregation
- o Racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty
- o Access to existing areas of high opportunity
- o Major public investments, including transportation & economic development
- o Fair Housing issues, services and activities

We are encouraged to go beyond these required components and supplement data provided by HUD to include additional indicators and data.

HUD has stressed the importance of this initiative through a series of six webinars held this year. Among the evaluation factors we will be evaluated on are:

- Complete and serious evaluation of HUD-provided data
- Bringing in additional data to gain a fuller appreciation of context of regional equity and access to opportunity
- The extent to which our FHEA product reflects meaningful consideration of the data and implications for the region
- Proof of serious engagement by regional stakeholders on FHEA findings and content

- The extent to which the FHEA links to decision making, prioritization and investment and provides a clear pathway toward holding the region accountable for FHEA deliberations.

As two examples of how regions are approaching related work and issues, below are links to the recently-published Denver Regional Equity Atlas and the Puget Sound Regional Council's Opportunity Mapping project.

Denver Regional Equity Atlas:

<http://www.milehighconnects.org/equity-atlas.html>

Puget Sound Regional Council - Opportunity Maps & Report (developed in partnership with the Kirwan Institute):

http://psrc.org/assets/7831/Draft_Opportunity_Maps_Report_2-10-12.pdf