



2020-2024 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS RELEVANT GOALS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Goal 1: Increase the supply of affordable housing in high opportunity areas.

- Expand bonus point offerings in RFPs to incentivize the development of large units with three or more bedrooms.

Goal 2: Support homeownership for households of color.

- Develop partnerships with local lending institutions to conduct homebuyer and financial literacy education targeted at communities of color.
- Participate in the Homeownership Opportunities Alliance to develop programs or policies for review of fair housing issues; and expand credit counseling and improvement programs for communities of color.
- Increase funding for down payment assistance programs.
- Provide more opportunities for families on public assistance to transition to ownership.
- Provide long-term support for communities of color beyond down payment assistance, such as additional funding programs for necessary repairs.

Goal 3: Increase community integration for person with disabilities.

- Increase the supply of integrated permanent supportive housing by utilizing Project-Based Vouchers or other rental assistance our in developments or developments receiving assistance from the Agency. Incentivize permanent supportive housing units through requests for proposals and notices of funding availability under the HOME Investment Partnerships programs as well as under locally-funded affordable housing programs.
- Ensure consistency in disability-related Housing Choice Voucher preferences across housing authorities.

Goal 4: Ensure equal access to housing for persons of protected classes, as well as lower-income and homeless households.

- Inventory municipalities with crime-free housing and nuisance ordinances that allow for eviction based on calls for service or criminal activity of tenants, and encourage that eviction based solely on calls for emergency service, particularly for survivors of domestic violence, victims of crime, and those experiencing health emergencies should not allow for eviction.
- Arrange for translation services so that all rental and homeownership applications be made available in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali, and ensure that paper copies are available for those without computer access.
- Ensure that housing authorities have translation services available to their customers.
- Encourage landlords to follow HUD's guidance on the use of criminal backgrounds in screening tenants.



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Goal 5: Reduce barriers to mobility.

- Implement a fair housing auditing policy for LIHTC developments overseen by Minneapolis, St. Paul, Washington County, and Dakota County, specifically assessing voucher holder marketing and access—particularly for family LIHTC housing outside of concentrated areas.
- Expand policies providing for regular landlord/developer outreach and engagement, to encourage and support participation in the voucher program, including periodic workshops and an ongoing working group.