

Economy

Boost economic opportunity and improve fiscal health

Improve access to affordable, high-quality housing.
Help more people access existing housing programs.
Support legal assistance for housing issues.
Expand rental assistance programs.
Turn around vacant or neglected homes.
Continue to use public land for affordable housing.
Update zoning to allow more "missing middle" housing.
Encourage new affordable housing in areas of opportunity.

What is 'missing middle' housing?



Conventional developers typically build either single-family homes or large apartment buildings, but few build the "missing middle." Middle density housing, like the stacked duplex above, are a widely-popular type of development that can help address the affordable housing crisis.

Use public land to support community goals.
Use publicly owned properties to help meet community needs.
Create focus area plans that show what's possible and get the community excited.

What are 'focus area plans'?

Focus area plans paint a picture of what's possible on a property. They show what a site could become with illustrations or examples.

The City's Housing and Neighborhood Services department offers minor housing repair forgivable loans and major housing rehabilitation forgivable loans to homeowners of at least one year. These loan programs can help homeowners prevent their homes from falling into disrepair at little to no cost.



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Actions on the Ground



Houston, TX Mixed-Income Neighborhood

Integrated Missing Middle Housing

By removing barriers to creating missing middle housing and introducing gentle density such as duplexes, triplexes, and lower density apartments into existing neighborhoods, mixed income neighborhoods that meet local housing and mobility needs can arise.

Vacant House Receivership Program

A "receivership" program would allow the city or a trusted partner to repair and reoccupy blighted homes.



Tampa, FL Downtown Publix

Showing What's Possible

Focus area plans can help us identify what a community needs most and put a plan into action to address those needs. They can identify areas for neighborhood services like grocery stores, medical offices, or innovative public spaces.

Use Public Land for Affordable Housing

There are many publicly owned, underutilized properties in Greater Downtown. As the City divests these properties, opportunities to fulfill community needs should be considered.

Legal Assistance Reduces Evictions and Foreclosures

Many residents face legal problems like evictions unclear property ownership, or scams. The city can partner with local legal experts to create a legal aid hub to help establish wills, avoid evictions, foreclosures, and housing discriminations.



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