

Participate in the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Working Groups



If you are interested in being considered for membership to one of the working groups, please contact Jay Sugnet at (303) 441-4057, or sugnetj@bouldercolorado.gov, before September 12, 2014.

Staff is currently crafting a working group proposal for City Council consideration at the September 2, 2014 meeting. Click on this link to review the [staff memo to Council](#).

As a next step, staff proposes forming five working groups to explore a range of solutions to Boulder's affordable housing challenges. **Working groups are just one component of a larger public engagement strategy.** These groups will be comprised of stakeholders who will be charged with exploring and evaluating the draft toolkit. In addition, it is expected the working groups will recommend new tools to develop a short list to be considered by the larger community. The topical areas are currently based on the project goals, and can be modified depending on Council's input on September 2.

Five Proposed Working Groups

1. Housing for low- and moderate-income households, including those with special needs and the homeless
2. Housing for middle-income households
3. Housing in single-family neighborhoods
4. Senior housing
5. University housing

Option to address as part of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Discussion

6. 15-minute neighborhoods

Opening symposium

An opening community symposium with guest speakers to provide an outside perspective and inspiration will be held in October. The symposium will likely include one or more speakers to discuss current housing challenges, innovative tools being used by other cities, and how those tools may be applicable to Boulder. The event will kick off the working group process and provide a basis of understanding of the issues and offer ideas to stimulate creative thinking.

Working groups

Each group will commit to meet 2-3 times in October/November to review and evaluate potential policies and tools specific to their goal. The only exception is the University working group. This group will be convened in late fall to have the benefit of discussions from the first four working groups. It will bring together traditional and non-traditional partners and stakeholders to discuss

implementing specific CHS tools. Prior to the first meeting of each group, staff will provide common background information in the form of a concise data book to provide common grounding. Also, staff will draft background materials for each topic and describe current programs. A sample agenda for each meeting is below:

- Meeting 1 - ground rules, process overview, current policy overview, discussion of potential policies and tools and applicability to Boulder;
- Meeting 2 - continuation of potential policies and tools discussion, begin to evaluate policies and tools (bang for your buck);
- Meeting 3 - if needed, continue discussion of evaluating potential policies and tools.

At the end of the working group process, each group will prepare a summary of the key issues and identifying the most promising tools to address their specific area, *not the final list of what would be in the strategy*, but recommendations on the short list of items to be considered through a community prioritization exercise in late fall and early winter.

Closing symposium

A final symposium will be held in early winter to bring working groups together to share insights, findings, and to identify common ground. This will include an interactive panel discussion and small group discussions as way to present the work, identify interrelations, and engage the broader community in the conversation.

Community prioritization

The final step in Phase II is to share the working group and focus group results with the broader community and start to prioritize policies and tools. This “bang for your buck” exercise will analyze potential policies and tools against the project goals. This is intended to highlight what level of effort is necessary or which actions or combinations of actions are needed to achieve the project goals. Depending on the outcomes of the working group process, various engagement activities will be employed, including Inspire Boulder, CHS website, monthly email updates, community forums, meetings with city boards and stakeholders, media releases, and other opportunities for multi-way communications with stakeholders that is innovative, creative, accessible, and fun.

15-Minute Neighborhood Goal

Based on feedback from the community, the “15-minute neighborhoods” goal may be more appropriately addressed as part of the 2015 BVCP update. The update will address the integration of housing, transportation, amenities, and a number of other aspects related to creating neighborhoods that are broader than addressing housing issues, which is the focus of the CHS.

Working Group Structure

- 6-8 members per working group
- Members are appointed by City Manager
- Members can serve on only one working group
- No minutes – meeting notes are taken on a chart pack and a picture is posted online
- Meetings will be publicized and open to the public, but discussion will focus on members

Selection Process

Working group membership will be open to anyone who lives or works in Boulder. Members will be selected to ensure geographic, demographic, and professional diversity. In addition, preference will be given to people with personal or professional experience related to the working group topic and a demonstrated ability to collaborate and seek solutions in a group setting. Interested people not selected are encouraged to attend the working group meetings and participate in the symposiums.

If you are interested in being considered for membership to the working groups, please contact Jay Sugnet at 303-441-4057, or sugnetj@bouldercolorado.gov before September 12. You will be notified by the end of September if you have been selected.