

Background Information – Housing Boulder

Although progress has been made since the [1999 Comprehensive Housing Strategy](#), conditions have changed and an updated strategy is needed to address current and future challenges.

The key outcomes of the [1999 Comprehensive Housing Strategy](#) include:

- Adoption of the Inclusionary Housing ordinance, which requires 20 percent of all new housing to be permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income households;
- Amended city annexation policies to position affordable housing as the highest priority community benefit;
- Focused on the 2000 Major Update to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan to identify opportunities to expand the amount of housing choices in the community; and
- Partnered with the University of Colorado to increase the supply of off-campus housing for students close to the university.

In 2000 and 2010, the [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy](#) updated planning efforts such as the Transit Village Area Plan and identified opportunities to expand the amount of housing choices in the community (designation of sites for mixed-use development, 28th Street Frontage road, Boulder Junction).

The 2010 [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update](#) also affirmed the city's commitment to supporting the following goals:

- Provide local support for community housing needs;
- Preserve housing choices;
- Advance and sustain diversity; and
- Integrate growth and community housing goals.

In 2010, an [Affordable Housing Task Force](#) produced a report with recommendations for improvements to the city's affordable housing goals and programs. Many of the innovative policies and tools identified by that effort are included in this planning effort.

In 2013, council recognized that the city's housing challenges require more than minor adjustments to current programs. City Council held study sessions on [Feb.12](#) and [May 14](#) 2013 to understand the current housing challenges and provide direction on the development of a strategy. In May 2013, council crafted the draft project purpose statement, key assumptions, and guiding principles.

To the greatest extent possible, the Comprehensive Housing Strategy is being coordinated and integrated with the following strategic planning initiatives to ensure complementary and logical outcomes that advance Boulder's established sustainability initiatives and [Climate Commitment](#).

- Transportation Master Plan;
- Economic Sustainability Strategy;
- Envision East Arapahoe;
- North Boulder Subcommunity Plan Update;
- Access Management and Parking Strategy;
- RTD's Northwest Area Mobility Study; and
- 100 Resilient Cities Initiative.

In particular, the Comprehensive Housing Strategy will inform the focus areas for the 2015 [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update](#).

Addressing Boulder's affordability challenges will take a creative mix of policies, tools and resources. The planning process will engage the community in a conversation to identify potential tools for City Council to make informed decisions for short-, medium- and long-term actions.