

Housing Affordability and Homelessness Task Force



Charter

BACKGROUND

Last fall, elected officials from Clackamas County and its cities attended a series of panel discussions to learn about housing affordability and homelessness issues in the county. We learned there is a very clear need and a call to engage the community and move toward solutions. We need to create an independent task force, driven by the realities and costs of development and lived experience of our affordability and homelessness crisis.

In addition, the recent passage of affordable housing initiatives in nearby cities and counties and a potential future regional affordable housing bond measure emphasize the importance of proactive, strategic planning and identification of priorities.

CHARGE

The Affordable Housing and Homelessness Policy Task Force is an advisory body appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to research, recommend and support new policies and strategies aimed at housing affordability and homelessness in Clackamas County. Task Force members will help represent business and community interests in discussions and encourage participation in two community-based summits targeted for the summer and fall of 2018.

The Task Force will develop an equity statement and pursue equitable outcomes through all its policy recommendations.

TERM

Task Force members will attend monthly meetings lasting up to 2.5 hours beginning in May 2018 and ending in June of 2019. Meetings will be held at Clackamas County offices in Oregon City.

OUTCOMES

The Task Force will seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- The Task Force will gather information and make specific near-term recommendations on regulatory changes and mechanisms that will foster the maintenance and development of affordable housing for all income levels, including the homeless.

- Recommendations will be developed through an equity lens to ensure equitable outcomes and will recognize the relationship between housing policy, public health and economic development, for an inclusive and holistic approach to solution finding.
- Clackamas County and cooperating cities are funding a Housing Needs Assessment to provide a detailed analysis of housing demand, supply and needs throughout the county at all income levels. Based on that analysis, the Task Force will recommend funding programs that will strengthen the County's ability to foster housing affordability and reduce homelessness.
- Today, there is a host of programs, committees and bodies addressing housing affordability and homelessness. The Task Force will make recommendations on long-term oversight, advocacy and coordination of housing affordability and homelessness reduction efforts in Clackamas County and interested cities.
- The Task Force will assist the County in developing metrics for evaluating any policies or strategies that emerge from this process.

TIMELINE

- **Phase One:** Identify and recommend a range of near term actions the County could and should do now.
Target: Summer 2018
- **Phase Two:** Recommend funding programs and cost reductions- that will maximize efficiencies and strengthen the County's ability to foster housing affordability, including creation of product, and reduce homelessness and financially supporting housing affordability and reduce homelessness."
Target: Winter 2018/2019
- **Phase Three:** Recommend ways the County, its cooperating cities, community service providers and business partners could better coordinate efforts in the long run.
Target: Summer 2019

MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force will be composed of representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors, with business and development expertise, knowledge of providing affordable housing, lived experience with our housing affordability crisis.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Task Force advises the Board of Commissioners and staff and has no formal delegated power of authority to represent Clackamas County or commit to the expenditure of any funds. The Task Force may identify members to present recommendations to Clackamas Board of County Commissioners and/or other governing bodies and community groups as needed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Early in Phase One, the Task Force will assist staff in developing a community engagement strategy to accompany Task Force and County activities. This strategy will be inclusive and encourage community involvement throughout the process. Task Force members may be asked to communicate with their networks and bring forward matters heard from their constituents.

In addition to this community outreach effort, interested community members can provide input to the Task Force in email to Vahid Brown at vbrown@clackamas.us. This feedback will be provided to the Task Force one week in advance of their meetings. Task Force meetings are open to the public. On occasion, guest speakers and experts may be invited to participate. Any changes to the Task Force meeting schedule will be published on the County's website and will be emailed directly to Task Force members.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

Task Force discussions and recommendations will be supported by data provided by County staff. Task Force members are also invited to bring additional data to the group for consideration. At each meeting, members will have the chance to request data and information from technical experts if available. This information will be provided in a timely manner.

DECISION-MAKING AND QUORUM

The Task Force will operate by consensus, taking votes only where needed. Minority opinions will be included in the meeting summary. A quorum must be present to vote on recommendations. A vote on an action or decision requires a majority of those present. A quorum is a simple majority of the total committee. It is the Task Force member's responsibility to self-identify and disclose any conflict of interest and abstain from decision making if appropriate.

WORKING AGREEMENT

Task Force members agree to operate under the following working agreement:

- Listen and listen again.
- Be respectful and courteous to the diversity of opinions in the room.
- Direct passionate opinions toward sharing information, not at each other.
- Allow the facilitator to keep the discussion moving and on task.
- Start and end meetings on time.
- Stand name cards up when wanting to ask a question or make a comment.