

## ULI MN/Regional Council of Mayors Housing Initiative 2013 Work Plan

Through the generosity of the Family Housing Fund, ULI MN/ Regional Council of Mayors has created a dynamic learning community to demonstrate the competitive advantage of a full range of housing choices - a diverse mix of housing types, sizes, and prices - in connected, livable communities. The following are focus areas for 2013 and a summary of ULI MN/RCM ongoing activities as part of the Housing Initiative.

### **2013 Areas of Focus:**

#### **Goal: Demonstrate the Economic Importance of a Full Range of Housing Choices**

1. **Apartment Preservation.** Identify resources and innovative local, regional and state interventions for the preservation and renovation of existing unsubsidized affordable rental as part of the **Minnesota Preservation Plus Initiative**. Engage the public and private sectors, with specific assistance from the Opportunity Cities and RCM Cities, to provide input and apply the outcomes of the research that includes direct/project based, system-wide and general recommendations resulting from the work conducted in 2012.
2. **SW LRT Community Works - Corridor-wide Housing Strategy:** With funding support from Living Cities, work in partnership with Southwest LRT Community Works, to develop a **corridor wide housing strategy and action plan** in support a full range of housing choices.
3. **Annual Housing Summit.** Partner with Metropolitan Council to focus on housing as an important driver of global competitiveness. Event scheduled for June 6, 2013, 8-11:30 a.m. at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts.
4. **Reinvesting in the Region/(Re)Development Ready Guide.** Work with partners to embed the actions within local tools and policies and as a guide for funding allocations.
5. **Culturally Sensitive Housing.** Partner with the University of Minnesota, developers, Realtors and suburban communities to better understand how to be prepared for cultural differences in housing and community that supports various ways of living. **Embed language and ideas within the housing policy toolbox.**
6. **Expand Opportunity for Housing Choice:** Develop strategies and evaluate ways to support new/renovated housing types to prepare for the changing market demand of the next generation that supports healthy living and sustainable neighborhoods.

## Ongoing Activities:

### **Goal: Continue to Deepen Regional Collaboration and Action**

1. **Navigating the New Normal.** Hold one session per month at an RCM city concentrated on the impact of the new normal, importance of demographic changes, competitive advantage of a full range of housing choices and working in partnership with the development community to achieve local and regional housing goals and economic competitiveness.
2. **Minnesota Housing Policy Toolbox.** Expand reach and content of the web-based tool box that provides local tools and strategies, along with local best practices, in support of the development and preservation of a full range of housing choices. Visit at <http://minnesota.housingpolicy.org/>
3. **Housing + Transportation Cost Calculator/Jobs + Housing Connections.** Continue to seek partners to expand the access and use of the MSP Housing + Transportation (H+T) Cost Calculator tool that easily calculates the combined housing and transportation costs based upon key data inputs associated with living and working location choices. Visit at <http://minnesota.uli.org/initiatives/housing/msp-ht-calculator/>
4. **Rethinking Housing.** Continue to partner to identify and develop innovation in buildings, places, and systems throughout the Twin Cities region including financing, design and delivery of housing choices. Visit at <http://www.rethinkinghousingmn.org/>
5. **Convene and Partner:** Continue to convene and expand participation in the **Housing Initiative Advisory Group** to ensure that public and private partners are represented in leading the work plan of the Housing Initiative. Quarterly convene RCM City Staff Leadership and metro-area County HRA/CDA director level staff to expand the learning environment necessary for meaningful impact and change.
6. **Opportunity City Program (Community Change information).** Provide cities with data as part of Navigating the New Normal to achieve progress in the preservation and production of a full range of housing choices in the suburban areas as the economy improves.