



# City of Austin

# MEMO

## Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

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**Date:** March 8, 2016

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** Betsy Spencer, Director   
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

**Subject:** Departmental Engagement Initiatives Underway

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the initiation of outreach activities for the proposed Strategic Housing Plan as well as the draft Action Plan that will identify proposed federal funding investments for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

The engagement activities from mid-March through May will be conducted to address two key purposes:

1. Solicit public feedback to inform the Annual Action Plan required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive federal formula grants;
2. Solicit public feedback to inform the development of the Austin Housing Plan and key strategies to achieve housing goals in Austin. The development of a strategic housing plan was one recommendation of the Prioritization of Affordable Housing Audit Report in November 2015.

### Annual Action Plan

In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the City of Austin expects to receive \$11.48 million in federal funding through four U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) formula grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). In order to receive these HUD grants, the City must submit an annual Action Plan that provides an overview of the community needs, resources, priorities, and proposed activities with regard to housing, community development, economic development and public services.

### Proposed Strategic Housing Plan

The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office is initiating the public engagement activities also to assist in developing a strategic housing plan in an effort to chart the course for how the city can meet its housing needs as well as provide a gauge of the success in which the goals, numerical targets and policy objectives are being met. The Austin Housing Plan will include numerical targets, timelines, and strategies to maintain and create affordable housing for a range of incomes throughout the city, as envisioned in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

There will be multiple opportunities for the public to learn about the Housing Plan & Annual Action Plan and provide feedback:

- Outreach events in each Council District;
- On-site outreach activities to connect with faith based organizations, renters, and other populations who are unlikely to participate in other ways;
- Collaboration with other entities to obtain feedback at their planned events;
- A “Meeting in a Box” activity designed for members of the community to share thoughts regarding potential implementation strategies;
- An online and paper survey (in English and Spanish) distributed through social media, community groups, social service providers, and non-profits; and
- Presentations about the Annual Action Plan and Housing Plan input opportunities at multiple City of Austin Boards and Commissions in March and April.

If you have a list of specific groups, organizations, or stakeholders you would like staff to engage in conversations about these important topics, please provide that information to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Planning and Policy Manager Erica Leak, 512-974-9375 or [Erica.leak@austintexas.gov](mailto:Erica.leak@austintexas.gov).

Staff will be presenting the draft Austin Housing Plan to the City Council Housing and Community Development Committee on June 6, 2016.

Additional information about the Austin Housing Plan and the Annual Action Plan is available online at: [www.austintexas.gov/housingplan](http://www.austintexas.gov/housingplan)

If you have additional questions regarding the outreach and engagement process, please contact Erica Leak, NHCD Housing Policy and Planning Manager, at 512-974-9375; [Erica.leak@austintexas.gov](mailto:Erica.leak@austintexas.gov).

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager