



The City is creating a Housing Action Plan to make sure that a variety of housing is available and affordable for people of all incomes in Lynnwood. The Plan will address current and future housing needs. When complete in early 2021, Lynnwood's Housing Action Plan will be a roadmap to help the City implement housing policies, programs, and strategies.

Lynnwood's Housing Action Plan is:

- An actionable policy document that outlines how to meet all of Lynnwood's housing needs.
- Based on data and analysis vetted and grounded through an inclusive and robust public process.
- A comprehensive approach to leverage resources and implement cohesive, effective, and feasible housing strategies tailored to the Lynnwood community.
- Tailored to the housing needs of the Lynnwood community to ensure decent, safe, and affordable housing for all.

Get Involved

The City wants the housing strategies to be based on community members' knowledge and experiences. The Housing Action Plan will be shaped by prior planning efforts, data, analysis, and an inclusive public process. In response to public health considerations for COVID-19, in-person community events are postponed until further notice. However, there are other ways to be involved:

- **[Stay tuned!](#)** Check the project webpage for more opportunities to share your perspectives as this project continues: <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/HousingActionPlan>
- **[Share your housing story.](#)** Help kick off the project by telling us about your experience living or working in Lynnwood. Your input will help us develop a Plan based on first-hand input

from the community it will serve. The survey can be accessed from the project website or at <https://makers.mysocialpinpoint.com/lynnwoodhap>.

- **Sign up** to receive email announcements about this project. Go to the project website to sign up for "Housing Action Plan" updates. If you already receive City of Lynnwood emails, be sure to update your preferences.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Housing Action Plan (HAP)?

A Housing Action Plan (HAP) is a policy document and implementation guide that will develop clear, actionable strategies to meet current and future housing needs. Washington State law requires the HAP identify strategies to encourage construction of:

- A greater variety of housing types; and
- Housing at prices that are accessible to people with a wide range of incomes.

Why is the City developing a HAP now?

1. Through a previous study, the City found that: Lynnwood is experiencing unprecedented growth;
2. A significant number (37%) of Lynnwood households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on housing; and
3. Most planned housing projects will not offer ownership opportunities.

While many housing policies and programs are already in place, there is a need for an updated coordinated housing strategy. To address these issues the City of Lynnwood applied for and received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Commerce (under ES2HB 1923) to develop a HAP.

How will the Housing Action Plan work with existing housing efforts?

The HAP will optimize existing policies, create strategies to fill gaps, and present a unified housing vision. A robust HAP with effective and achievable policy recommendations will enable City leadership to target scarce resources. The HAP allows Lynnwood to thoroughly review policy options, provide recommendations, and confidently implement a path forward.

The HAP builds on several existing housing efforts to reduce duplication of work:

- **Comprehensive Plan.** HAP strategies will inform and further develop the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan, which State law requires be revised by 2024. The HAP will inform the Comprehensive Plan and result in more cohesive and effective planning.
- **Housing White Paper.** In July 2019, City staff developed a white paper titled “Housing in Lynnwood: A Review of Housing Trends, Conditions, and Programs.” The paper was presented to City Council for review and discussion. The need for an organized housing strategy was identified through this process.
- **Leveraging Resources.** In May 2020, City Council adopted legislation to accept funds from the state for affordable and supportive housing (HB 1406). HB 1406 is not a new tax. Rather, it allows cities and counties to receive a portion of the State’s share of sale and use tax (sales tax) revenue. The HAP will provide strategy and guidance on how to best utilize the HB 1406 funds.
- **Regional Housing Efforts.** Mayor Nicola Smith co-chaired the Snohomish County Housing Affordability Regional Taskforce (HART). On February 5, 2020, HART released a five-year Report and Action Plan for jurisdictions to collaboratively and proactively address housing affordability needs throughout Snohomish County. The HAP will evaluate the City’s current progress and future ability to further implement HART strategies. Community Development staff will also continue to coordinate, and share lessons learned with neighboring jurisdictions and housing groups, such as the Alliance for Housing Affordability (AHA).

What is the process for developing the HAP?

The process will include assessing housing needs and market conditions; reviewing past studies and research on the topic; and gathering information and feedback through conversations with the community.



When will the HAP be complete?

The Department of Commerce requires the HAP to be adopted by July 2021. The timeline below

identifies project milestones. The final Plan will detail next steps for implementation so the HAP's goals can be fully realized.

Public outreach and engagement are a critical part of developing the HAP. In response to public health considerations for COVID-19, in-person community engagement will be postponed until further notice, potentially impacting the timeline and some milestones.



Who should participate in developing the HAP?

Lynnwood's community includes a wide range of residents and households with unique perspectives and challenges. The City wants to hear from you to develop the HAP so that the housing strategies will reflect all residents and be grounded in community members' knowledge of Lynnwood's strengths and challenges.

Broad community engagement in developing the HAP also helps ensure that the plan reflects housing needs that might not show up in statistical data, such as the quality of existing housing units.

How can I learn more?

The Community Development Department is the project lead for the Housing Action Plan. Visit the project website at <http://lynnwoodwa.gov/housingaction> plan or reach out to the project manager Kristen Holdsworth, AICP, Senior Planner at kholdsworth@lynnwoodwa.gov or 425-670-5409.