

If approved, an Interlocal Agreement will be negotiated by the City of Austin and Travis County to solicit a contract to conduct a Housing Market Study and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study. These studies are requirements for creating the FY 2014—2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan includes the grantee's needs assessment, market analysis, and a strategic plan for addressing the community's priority needs for the period of the plan. The Consolidated Plan is designed to help states and local jurisdictions make data-driven, place-based investment decisions.

The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD) solicits a housing market study and a study on the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice prior to each five-year strategic planning period. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is a thorough review of any barriers to fair housing choice in the public and private sector of the jurisdiction, and how the jurisdiction intends to address any causes for concern.

The Housing Market Study and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice will also inform the Imagine Austin Housing Affordability Priority Program. Travis County has a mutual interest in conducting a Housing Market Study, and will partner with the City to prevent duplicate efforts in response to HUD's planning requirement. The intention of the City and County is to mutually fund the project, although the City will be the primary solicitor and administrator of the contract. Upon completion of the solicitation, NHCD will return to Council for approval of the contract and the funding requirements.