

2017 – 2018 ACTION PLAN

The Community Development Commission and the City Council will conduct public hearings in June 2017 prior to City Council action on adoption of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for use of federal funds and leveraged local resources.

The Action Plan will be first time that the City Council will consider investment decisions following adoption of the Strategic Housing Plan as an amendment to Imagine Austin, Austin's current comprehensive plan.

During the Needs Assessment public hearings, several of us who help not-for-profits repair homes owned by low-income residents at no cost to the homeowners highlighted the 600 home repair annual goal included in the Strategic Plan. It appears that the proposed level of funding for next year will not result in 600 repairs (555 repair goal on page 157 and 507 repair goal on page 37).

Carry-forward funding from the current fiscal year or other local funding sources will be needed to achieve the 600 homes repaired per year, particularly since some federal funding sources are facing significant cuts in the proposed federal budget.

Creative solutions such as use of Housing Trust Fund or Clean Community fees collected by Austin Code from our monthly utility bills can enable low-income homeowners to live in housing that they can afford and is safe. While this decision does not have to be made as part of Action Plan adoption, direction to City staff to include funding for 600 home repairs can be part of the draft City budget for 2017-2018 that the City Council will approve in September 2017.

Please align your future budget decisions will 600 home repair goal so that these families can age safely in place. Creativity can allow homeowners to have repairs performed timely instead of continuing to live in substandard conditions. Our brothers and sisters deserve nothing less.

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