

July 12, 2023

Ethan Stuckmayer
Housing Services Division Manager
Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol Street NE Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: 2023 Housing Planning Assistance Grant for Salem Housing Production Strategy

Dear Ethan Stuckmayer:

On behalf of the Salem City Council, I am pleased to write this letter in support of Salem's 2023 Housing Planning Assistance Grant Application to help develop a Housing Production Strategy. The City of Salem is required to adopt a Housing Production Strategy by December 31, 2025, pursuant to Exhibit A of OAR 660-008-0045. Receiving a Housing Planning Assistance Grant from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will enable Salem to meet this deadline.

For years, the City has been working diligently to promote and expedite the development of housing, as Salem continues to grow. In 2023, the City adopted the Salem Housing Needs Analysis (HNA) and Our Salem project, which rezoned more than 1,500 acres of land to mixed use and 300 acres to multifamily. The City also updated its zoning code last year to allow middle housing in single-family zones. All of this work opened the door for middle housing and multifamily housing to be developed outright across Salem. If the City receives a DLCD grant, Salem will take the next necessary step of developing a plan – a Housing Production Strategy – to help see that the housing needed in the community is not just allowed but in fact built.

In addition, a Housing Production Strategy will enable Salem to coordinate and advance housing priorities established by recent planning and housing work. Those priorities include: updating Salem's Comprehensive Plan, implementing the State's Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules, implementing the Salem Climate Action Plan, and property acquisitions for housing development.

The City Council supports the development of a Housing Production Strategy and asks that you strongly consider awarding a Housing Planning Assistance Grant to the City of Salem.

Sincerely,

Mayor Chris Hoy