

VISION 2040 & Housing



Ensuring the availability and affordability of a variety of home types is crucial for meeting our region's housing needs. Homes should be located in places that are accessible and where services can be provided most efficiently.

The Importance of Addressing Housing

To meet the demands of a growing and changing population, the region needs to develop vibrant communities that offer a variety of home choices. The region's supply of homes should serve all economic segments of the population. It should provide residences that are safe and healthy, attractive, and close to jobs, shopping, and other amenities.

What's in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 encourages housing production that meets existing and future needs. It places a major emphasis on the location of housing and promotes fair and equal access to housing. VISION 2040 calls for preserving and expanding housing affordability, incorporating quality and environmentally friendly design in homebuilding, and offering healthy and safe home choices for all the region's residents.



Multicounty Planning Policies. The multicounty planning policies address housing diversity and affordability, jobs-housing balance, and best practices for home construction. The region needs a diverse and well-distributed mix of homes affordable to both owners and renters in every demographic and income group. VISION 2040 encourages the construction, preservation, and ownership of a variety of homes — including for special needs and middle- to low-income households. VISION 2040 recognizes the importance of having employment, services, and transportation options close to home. Increasing housing choices and opportunities in regional growth centers and employment centers aims to improve efficiency and mobility and strengthen the region's economy.

Actions. VISION 2040 calls for a regional housing strategy that assesses the specific housing needs of the region, identifies strategies to meet these needs, and coordinates regional housing efforts. The Regional Council is directed to create a regional housing program to offer guidance and technical assistance in developing housing targets and reviewing effective housing elements, and will assemble a clearinghouse of regional housing data and resources.

In conjunction with the Prosperity Partnership, the Regional Council will provide guidance and technical assistance to local governments creating policies that provide housing opportunities for all economic segments. Work already underway includes the creation of the Housing Education and Technical Assistance Program (HETAP), and the sponsorship of legislative actions that enable communities to develop and fund housing in concert with VISION 2040. The Regional Council will review housing elements in local comprehensive plans and provide guidance for developing housing targets, including targets for affordable housing.

What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Countywide planning efforts play an important role in addressing housing, beginning with their targeting processes for allocating residential and employment growth. Countywide planning policies should include common strategies and programs for creating affordable housing. Counties, in cooperation with their cities, should also continue to work on reducing homelessness.

Jurisdictions will need to work proactively to increase the supply of homes. Local governments are asked to demonstrate the ability to accommodate the number of homes needed to meet growth targets. Housing needs addressed in local plans must be coordinated with land use, transportation, capital facilities and economic development. This is key for addressing better connections between where jobs and residences are located, including workforce homes. Local plans and development regulations should allow for a diversity of types of homes and advance the production of affordable housing options. Where needed, approval processes should be revised to better facilitate the production of new units. Development regulations and zoning codes should enable mixed use and denser development in urban centers.

New approaches for increasing the supply of housing should be considered, including allowing smaller residential lots and expanding the range of allowable lot sizes, providing density or height bonuses for including affordable home choices in projects, encouraging infill development; establishing minimum densities, rehabilitating older structures, preserving or improving existing housing stock, providing tax incentives for multifamily housing in centers, and encouraging design to create attractive and compatible development that reflects existing neighborhood character.



For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses housing is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council's Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.