



Small Communities Planning Program and 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program: Funding Considerations

Community Development Committee

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October 20, 2025

Today's Agenda

Small Communities Planning Program and the 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program

Overall Program Budget

Planning Assistance Incentive Grants Update

LUAC Discussion

- Funding Scenarios
- Funding Priorities

Next Steps and Discussion

Overall Program Budget

Overall 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Fund Budget is \$5.64 Million

Programs	Overall Budget Scenario A	Overall Budget Scenario B	Overall Budget Scenario C
Planning Assistance Grants	\$2,252,000	\$3,024,000	\$2,830,000
Incentive Grants	\$938,000	\$938,000	\$938,000
Small Communities Program	\$2,146,000	\$1,609,500	\$1,798,000
Wastewater Plan	\$982,000	\$982,000	\$982,000
Water Supply Plan	\$294,000	\$294,000	\$294,000
Surface Water Mgmt Plan	\$870,000	\$333,500	\$522,000
	\$5,336,000	\$5,571,500	\$5,566,000
Remaining Funds	\$304,000	\$68,500	\$74,000

Update: Planning Assistance Incentive Grants

Advancing Regional Goals

- People-centered regional goals like:
 - Our region is equitable and inclusive.
 - Our communities are healthy and safe.
 - Our region is dynamic and resilient.
- Opportunities to support Regional Goal Frameworks for Equity, Environmental Justice, Anti-Displacement, Community Centered Engagement, and Commitments to American Indian communities
- **Recommendation:**
\$10,000 each grant eligible community

Process Efficiencies: Early Plan Submission

- Statutory requirement for a 15-day plan review
- Staggered deadline spreads out plan submissions
 - Increases efficiency and accuracy in plan reviews
 - Allows Council staff to better serve local governments and continue high levels of service throughout the planning process
 - Supports better relationships with local governments
- **Recommendation:**
\$4,000 each grant eligible community

LUAC Discussion: Funding Scenarios

Overall budget is \$5.64 Million for planning grants, incentive grants, and Small Community Planning Program engineering costs

LUAC Discussion didn't consider Scenario A except as a baseline. Consensus favored **Scenario C**.

- Rationale:
 - Minor reduction in planning grant awards far outweighed by benefit to small communities
 - Prevents disinvestment in wastewater and water supply facilities in region's smallest communities
 - Difference between Scenarios B and C from Scenario A (baseline) is a 34% increase and a 25% increase, respectively, over what was provided in the previous planning cycle

# of Eligible Participants*	Community type	Scenario A		Scenario B		Scenario C	
		2040 Plan Levels	Total	Inflation-Adjusted	Total	Adjusted for Programs	Total
60	Sewered	\$32,000	\$1,920,000	\$43,000	\$2,580,000	\$40,000	\$2,400,000
4	Unsewered	\$20,000	\$80,000	\$27,000	\$108,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
3	County/Consortium	\$84,000	\$252,000	\$112,000	\$336,000	\$110,000	\$330,000
67			\$2,252,000		\$3,024,000		\$2,830,000

*Based on eligibility criteria recommended by the CDC on 10/6/2025

LUAC Discussion: Funding Priorities Engineering Services Cost Estimate

Small Communities Planning Program

Estimates in this table were the basis for possible engineering budget allocations for eligible participants.

Plans	Type of Community	No. of Communities	Estimated Plan Cost	Cost Estimate
Wastewater Plans				\$982,000
	Regional or Municipal Sewer	15	\$58,000	\$870,000
	Unsewered (SSTS)	14	\$8,000	\$112,000
Water Supply Plans				\$294,000
	Public water supply	13	\$18,000	\$234,000
	Public water supply from neighbor	6	\$5,000	\$30,000
	Private wells	10	\$3,000	\$30,000
Surface Water Management Plans				\$870,000
			TOTAL	\$2,146,000

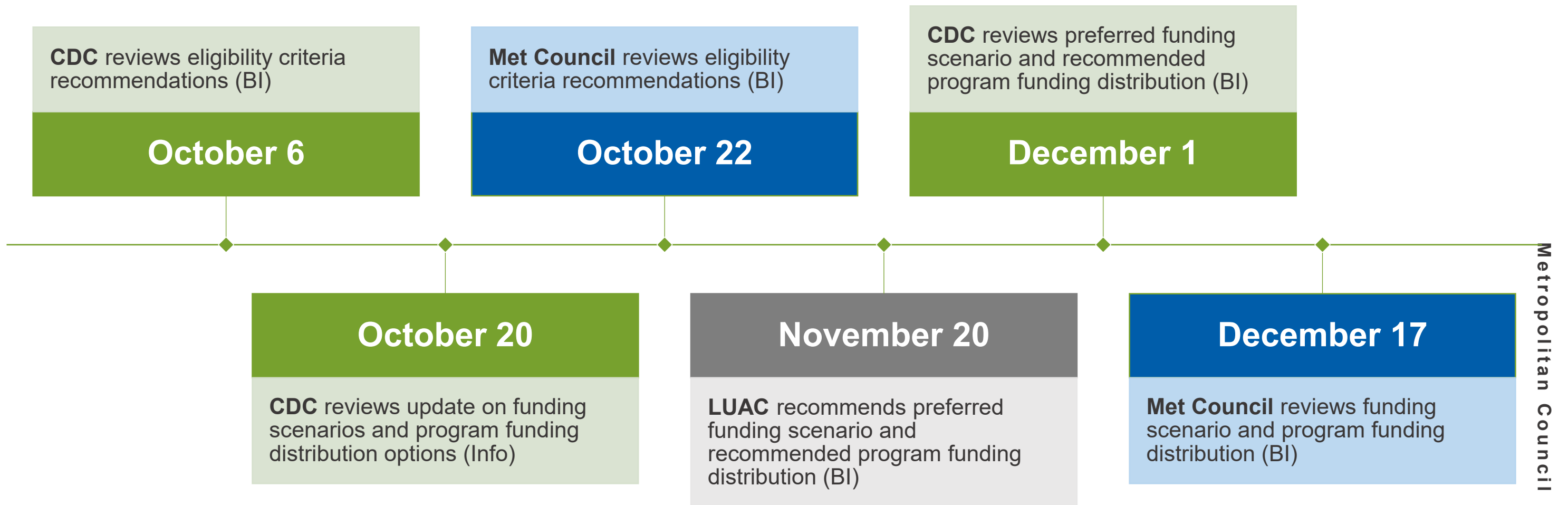
LUAC Discussion: Funding Priorities

Engineering Cost Estimates by Community Type and Budget Scenario

- Allocation approach proposes a not-to-exceed (NTE) engineering budget allocation for program participants
- Estimate is based on type of community services (below), expected planning effort, and need.
- LUAC's preference for Scenario C prioritizes small communities and provides the highest allocation possible within overall program budget.

Type of Community Services	# of comms	Wastewater+ Water Supply Estimates	Scenario B		Scenario C	
			Addl \$11,500 for Surface Water Mgmt	Estimated Total Cost	Addl \$18,000 for Surface Water Mgmt	Estimated Total Cost
Sewered + Public (municipal) water supply	10	\$76,000	\$87,500	\$875,000	\$94,000	\$940,000
Sewered + Public water supply from neighbor	3	\$63,000	\$74,500	\$223,500	\$81,000	\$243,000
Sewered + Private water supply (wells)	2	\$61,000	\$72,500	\$145,000	\$79,000	\$158,000
Unsewered +Public (municipal) water supply	3	\$26,000	\$37,500	\$112,500	\$44,000	\$132,000
Unsewered + Public water supply from neighbor	3	\$13,000	\$24,500	\$73,500	\$31,000	\$93,000
Unsewered + Private water supply (wells)	8	\$11,000	\$22,500	\$180,000	\$29,000	\$232,000
	29			\$1,609,500		\$1,798,000

Next Steps: Tentative Adoption Schedule



BI = Business Item
Info = Informational Item

Discussion



Questions

- Do you have a preferred 2050 Planning Assistance Grant funding scenario?
- Do you support the adjustments in the incentive grant award amounts?
- Are there questions you wish the LUAC to further consider?



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