

ICH Housing Solutions Committee Meeting
February 24, 2020 – 2 PM

Agenda –

1. D.C. Government Agency Updates
2. Discussion of the Housing Solutions Committee’s 2020 Work Plan Items from the draft Homeward 2.0 Plan

For the 2020 Work Plan, the Objectives listed below are proposed for inclusion in the Housing Solutions Committee’s work.

In this month’s meeting, we plan to discuss how the Committee might organize itself to develop and continue the discussion on each of these items for the remainder of the year. This might include the creation of standing Work Groups, or time-limited Task Forces.

Objective 1.2: Identify and Address Process Barriers

1.2.1 Convene expert task force to process-map the PSH/Affordable housing development process to identify redundancies, inefficiencies, and barriers that add time, unnecessary complexity, and cost to projects; issue report on recommendations to ICH Executive Committee.

Objective 1.3: Identify Strategies to Address “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) Challenges

1.3.1. Work with Office of Planning to identify changes to existing laws and procedures that allow residents to block or substantially slow the development of affordable and supportive housing projects in their neighborhoods that otherwise comply with threshold requirements

Objective 2.3: Identify Strategies to Expedite Paperwork Completion and Review

2.3.2 Review and update common expectations and standard protocol for DCHA review of voucher applications, including timeliness standards (# of days to turn around) and communication guidelines (who should be included on communication about the application).

Objective 2.4: Identify Strategies to Expedite Inspections and Reduce Number of Failed Inspections

2.4.1 Review and update common expectations for completion of housing inspections, including timeliness standards and communication guidelines.

2.4.2 Improve training for PSH case managers, RRH case managers, and housing navigators on housing inspection process so they may help identify items during unit viewing and coordinate with landlord to make repairs prior to inspection.

2.4.3 Explore options to incentivize landlords to complete repair of minor items identified during inspections to secure units and expedite lease-up process.

Objective 9.2: Increase Housing Options for Individuals with Highest Levels of Need

9.2.1 Increase supply of site-based PSH. (As referenced in the 2.0 plan, the ICH recommends a 65/35 split of new investments between scattered-site and site-based PSH for individuals.)

9.2.2 Develop more intensive model of site-based PSH to ensure individuals with the most extensive barriers receive the supports needed. Review supportive services contracting models; determine how to pay for additional services needed in more intensive models (e.g., on site nursing, medication management).

Objective 10.3: Support DBH to Develop a Housing Strategy for Persons with Severe Mental Illness.

10.3.1 Work with DBH to develop a broader housing strategy for individuals with severe mental illness, assessing the type and quantity of different housing models needed, the performance of existing programs, and the opportunity to better align programs and services with the homeless services system.