

CORRIDOR HOUSING INITIATIVE

Coordinated by the Center for Neighborhoods



Request for Letter of Interest

In 2002 the Metropolitan Council projected a population growth of 600,000 over the next twenty years for the Twin Cities region. The Mayor, City Council, other public and nonprofit partners and the Center for Neighborhoods are seeking your help in determining where additional new housing units can best be located throughout the city. The Corridor Housing Initiative will provide opportunities for neighborhoods and community-based groups to cooperatively identify where additional affordable and life-cycle housing can be sited to complement other community development opportunities, align with neighborhood values, and achieve expanded housing and location choices for residents.

The Corridor Housing Initiative process integrates market realities into neighborhood visioning, and links citywide policies with community goals for housing development. The proactive process positions neighborhood and community groups to define development objectives, recruit developers to implement those goals, and strengthen the probability of success through collaboration and partnership with the City.

Participation is strictly voluntary, and will not be imposed on areas without neighborhood and community invitation. Neighborhoods and community-based organizations may offer to host the Corridor Housing Initiative by submitting a letter of interest to the Center for Neighborhoods

Who is eligible?

Any neighborhood or community-based organization is eligible to apply. A selection committee of city, neighborhood, and funding representatives will select one or two proposals per round from a competitive pool. Priority will be given to areas with the following characteristics:

- Along major corridors and streets (University Avenue, Central Avenue, Payne Avenue, etc.)
- High-priority development areas (such as LRT station areas)
- Areas where affordable housing is currently scarce.
- Neighborhoods interested in exploring special overlay districts or in-fill opportunities.
- Opportunities for new housing and mixed-use opportunities.

How to apply?

Submit a letter of interest to the Center for Neighborhoods. Your letter should include the following:

- Ideas of potential sites for housing or mixed use development.
- A listing of organizations that would be involved in the process. Multiple neighborhoods and community groups are encouraged to apply together on projects that cross neighborhood or community boundaries.
- A letter or notice of support from local government officials.
- Identification of neighborhood resources to support development in your area (if any)

Deadlines for letters of interest:

Round 1: December 1, 2005
Round 2: June 1, 2006
Round 3: December 1, 2006
Round 4: June 1, 2007

Please submit your letters of interest to:

**Gretchen Nicholls
Center for Neighborhoods
2600 E Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55406**

What will be required of the host organizations?

Neighborhood and community-based organizations will support the outreach and communication strategies for the Corridor Housing Initiative process. A stipend of \$5,000 will be provided to each project area selected to cover outreach and expenses.

As hosts, you agree to:

- Assist the Center for Neighborhoods in convening a project steering committee to reach agreement on project goals and outcomes, and creates a work plan for the process.
- Participate as a partner in establishing the goals, outcomes, communication strategies, and work plan of the project.
- Coordinate and provide outreach to the community to broaden participation in the process and support of the final products.
- Consider the recommendations that result from the process for formal endorsement by each partnering organization.
- Bring community resources together in partnership to support the implementation of development objectives.
- Assist in evaluating the initiative and its success in achieving its goals.

What are the benefits?

Through the Corridor Housing Initiative neighborhoods and community-based organizations selected to participate will receive the following benefits:

- Access to technical resources, including:
 - ❑ **Metropolitan Design Center** (University of Minnesota – CALA) – design and housing types
 - ❑ **Center for Policy Planning and Performance** – facilitation, evaluation and community outreach
 - ❑ **Central Community Housing Trust** – development
 - ❑ **MN Environmental Initiative** – soil remediation
- Opportunity to strengthen collaborative relationships between communities and City and County partners.
- Support to establish development objectives that are informed by market realities, and tools to implement those goals.

For further information about the Corridor Housing Initiative, please contact Gretchen Nicholls at 612-339-3480 or by email at gretchennicholls@center4neighborhoods.org. Information can also be obtained on the Center for Neighborhoods' web site: www.center4neighborhoods.org.