SCAG has completed its 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), which covers the planning period from October 2021 through October 2029, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has approved our final allocations. The resulting Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan provides a sustainable vision for housing in Southern California that for the first time includes planning for the existing need of 836,857 units to address overcrowded and unsafe housing conditions in the region’s most accessible locations. In addition, the region will plan for 504,970 units to accommodate population growth. To support the region in meeting its housing goals, SCAG is implementing the REAP program, using $47.5M in state funding. The REAP program funds a range of planning, development streamlining, financing strategies and other best practices aimed at accelerating housing production.

Residential segregation and exclusion, whether by race, ethnicity, disability, or income, is a result of numerous housing and land use policies, practices, and procedures—both public and private—that have had enduring and pervasive negative impacts. Overt and covert housing discrimination have restricted meaningful fair housing choice and equitable access to opportunity, particularly for communities of color. To ameliorate past actions that led to inequity, decision-makers must create land-use and funding policies to increase affordable housing in high resource neighborhoods that have often been exclusionary (explicitly or in effect of costs and zoning policies) and bring additional resources to traditionally underresourced neighborhoods. In May 2021, SCAG’s Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan. Supporting the region’s cites and counties to center racial equity in local planning is a key goal of the action plan, and SCAG is committed to helping our members meet AFFH requirements through its REAP program and ongoing technical assistance.

In May 2021, SCAG’s March 2021 Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report cites data from the National Equity Atlas, and finds that, in the SCAG Region:

- **15% OF THE REGION’S PEOPLE OF COLOR LIVE IN HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS, more than twice the amount of the white population**

- **Across the region, BLACK, HISPANIC/LATINX AND NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS, both renters and owners, EXPERIENCE THE GREATEST HOUSING COST BURDENS: 46% of renting Hispanic/Latinx households; 41% of renting Black households, and 33% of renting Native American households spend over 30% of their incomes on housing costs compared to 26% of renting white households**

- **10% OF HISPANIC/LATINX HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCE OVERCROWDING, compared to 1% of white households**

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1 Source: California Department of Housing and Community Development, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Guidance for all public entities and for housing elements, April 2021 update
PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE & INCREASE HOUSING PRODUCTION

Subregional Partnerships
Many cities in the SCAG region are of smaller size and population. This program aims to find new and innovative ways for neighboring cities to work together to address common barriers to housing. An allocation of $24 million will go to local subregions to fund planning efforts that accelerate housing production, aligns investment in housing planning with the RHNA allocation, and implements the broader goals of Connect SoCal.

Housing & Sustainable Development
Through the Sustainable Communities Program, SCAG provides resources and direct technical assistance to approximately 25 jurisdictions to complete important local planning efforts that both accelerate housing production as well as enable implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) of Connect SoCal.

Call for Collaboration
Developed in partnership with the California Community Foundation, Irvine Foundation, and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the Call for Collaboration program funds community-based organizations and non-profit led approaches that seek to address the tremendous challenge in meeting housing needs while addressing historic racial inequities.

Housing Policy Education
Local leadership development and coalition building are critical steps toward increasing housing production. SCAG is developing a Housing Policy Leadership Academy to train and educate elected officials and other community stakeholders to understand housing policy, develop regional pro-housing coalitions, better utilize housing funding opportunities, implement housing elements, and collaborate with SCAG.

Public Education Campaign
SCAG will develop a community outreach and pro-housing production campaign with the goals of creating more neighbors for neighbors support, positive associations with housing development, and housing-supportive land use policies.

Transit-Oriented Housing Development
By collaborating with local transit agencies, this program helps address the challenge of creating an active live/work environment. Partnerships with Metro and Metrolink will identify and encourage transit-oriented housing production opportunities.

Sustainable Development
Building more housing near jobs and transit is not just good for people, but also for the environment. Our regional plan aims to accommodate 64 percent of housing in priority growth areas. SCAG is developing research and planning best practices and toolkits to align local housing planning with this goal to meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets and also provide support to our subregional partners and local jurisdictions to develop strategies to meet housing need on both the local and regional levels.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATES

Regional Accessory Dwelling Unit Affordability Analysis
Supported cities in determining housing inventory analyses of sufficient suitable land available for residential development.

SCAG Housing Element Parcel Tool (HELP)
HELP is a web-mapping tool developed to help jurisdictions and stakeholders understand local land use and site opportunities that meet the jurisdictions’ requirements for the 6th Cycle Housing Element updates.

Housing Element Needs & Affordability Data
Developed housing element needs and affordability data pre-certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for housing element updates.

Learn more at scag.ca.gov/housing

CONTACT US
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