

NEEDS, GOALS, & STRATEGY SUMMARY

Assessment of Fair Housing Goal	Consolidated Plan Goal	Priority Need	Priority Strategies
Implement adopted City planning policies through appropriate development regulations that support expanded housing choice and increased inventory	Reduce housing cost burden for low- and moderate-income households	Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the acquisition, preservation, and development of housing units affordable for low-income residents • Maintain the City's proactive role in affordable housing development • Support homeownership for low to moderate income households, especially for minority households and households with young children • Foster creative solutions for alternative ownership models, including through shared equity, resident-owned communities, and cooperative housing • Offer rental assistance for vulnerable households, prioritizing homeless families with children and medically fragile seniors, as well as severely cost burdened families with young children • Promote mixed income neighborhoods • Offer home rehabilitation loans with favorable terms for low-income homeowners – especially for those who are elderly or disabled • <i>Research and evaluate how the City's adopted planning policies and new policies associated with the Comprehensive Plan update that might impact displacement or wealth building by low-income or minority residents.</i> • <i>Coordinate closely with long-range planning team members as they implement new guidance to project housing needs at all income levels and analyze racially disparate impacts.</i> • <i>Support the Whatcom Housing Alliance's public education and engagement efforts to raise public awareness of the benefits of increased housing choice in all neighborhoods.</i>

Note: strategies in italics were already approved and incorporated into the Assessment of Fair Housing.

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	Provide vulnerable households with services to remain stably housed	Housing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support programs to prevent chronic homelessness through intervention services like diversion and light touch case management. • Build agency capacity • Reduce logjams to ensure that the emergency housing system is working in the most supportive & efficient way possible (address system constraints)
	Help vulnerable households to meet their basic needs	Basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help fill gap in basic needs to low-income persons and households, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food ○ Childcare ○ Hygiene • Promote skill-building opportunities, such as literacy and job training programs for low-income and special needs individuals • Fund activities that improve social support and connection for special needs populations • Assist in the preservation of existing community facilities, such as childcare and senior centers, and respond to other specific needs that arise
	Increase safety for vulnerable groups	Safe shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity and partnerships to increase shelter spaces, leveraging existing staff and resources • Improve disaster preparedness and severe weather response efforts, particularly for special needs populations • Support the development of emergency shelter for families with children • Support the operations of non-congregate emergency shelter, prioritizing seniors and medically fragile adults

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<p><i>Support people who face housing discrimination by examining where the City may add additional supports or protections</i></p>	<p>Prevent housing discrimination and increase protections for low-income renters</p>	<p>Fair Housing education and enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and increase mediation & legal resources for low-income tenants • Involve partner agencies, tenants, landlords, and the broader community in education and advocacy efforts involving homelessness, cost burden, and housing equity • Raise awareness with upstream funding and regulatory agencies about local needs and priorities • <i>Research the removal of barriers for low-income renters to obtain housing, such as strategies to limit the number of application fees</i> • <i>Maintain funding for landlord liaison position and support for additional housing case managers.</i> • <i>Work with local partner agencies to provide coordinated training opportunities and information for landlords, property managers, and renters.</i> • <i>In partnership with local housing agencies and mediation organizations, devise a strategy to recognize landlords that voluntarily offer fair and affordable housing, working to remove the stigma of housing assistance.</i> • <i>Educate the public, especially property owner and managers, and act as a referral resource for Fair Housing issues as they arise. Create and drop off education materials about Fair Housing when conducting rental inspections.</i>
<p><i>Provide education on Fair Housing to property managers and owners, as well as tenants, to increase public understanding of Fair Housing laws</i></p>			

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