Housing Advisory Commission

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INFORMATION CALENDAR
November 17, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Housing Advisory Commission

Submitted by: Sarah Bell, Chairperson, Housing Advisory Commission

Subject: Housing Advisory Commission Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

This report transmits the Housing Advisory Commission's (HAC) work plan for Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 (FY 2026 – 2027), as required by the City Council's July 2016 direction for all commissions to submit annual work plans detailing goals and objectives

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July 2016, the City Council directed all commissions (with certain exceptions) to submit work plans detailing goals and objectives for the year. Plans should be submitted at the start of each fiscal year.

At its June 2, 2026, meeting, the HAC approved its FY 2026 – 2027 work plan with the following vote:

Action: M/S/C (Twu/Vaughn Scott) to adopt the FY 2026 – 2027 work plan, as amended.

Vote: Ayes: Bell, Haycox, Shere, Simon-Weisberg, Twu, and Vaughn Scott. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Micael (excused) and Mirvish (excused).

BACKGROUND

The Housing Advisory Commission advises the City Council on housing matters, including affordable housing programs and policies and Community Development Blog Grant and Emergency Solutions Grants programs and their funding allocations. The Commission also recommends HTF allocations, serves as the oversight body for Measure O (the $135 million General Obligation bond for affordable housing development), and reviews items referred by the City Council, HAC members, or other commissions. When necessary, the HAC hears matters regarding abatement of substandard buildings and serves as the appeals board for relocation and correction of code violations pursuant to Chapter 19.40.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The work plan supports environmental sustainability and climate goals by promoting affordable housing development and preservation, which can reduce displacement and associated transportation emissions. Affordable housing projects funded through Housing Trust Fund allocations and CDBG programs often incorporate energy-efficient design and sustainable building practices.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The Commission will implement the approved work plan activities throughout FY 2026 – 2027 and report back to City Council as appropriate on policy recommendations, funding allocations, and other matters within the Commission's purview.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

There are no direct fiscal impacts from acceptance of this work plan. Future recommendations from the Commission regarding Housing Trust Fund allocations, Community Development Block Grant funding, and other housing programs will be presented to City Council with fiscal impact analyses as appropriate.

CONTACT PERSON

Snow Zhu, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-7774

Attachments:
1: Housing Advisory Commission Work Plan (FY 2026 – 2027)

Attachment 1: Housing Advisory Commission Work Plan (FY 2026 – 2027)

Mission Statement:

The Housing Advisory Commission:

- Advises the City Council on housing matters, including affordable housing programs and policies and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Services Grant (ESG) programs and their funding allocations;
- Recommends to the City Council Housing Trust Fund (HTF) allocations;
- Serves as the oversight body for Measure O, the $135 million General Obligation bond to fund development of affordable housing; and
- Reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council, HAC members, or other commissions.

In addition, as necessary, the HAC:

- Hears matters regarding abatement of substandard buildings pursuant to Chapter 19.40; and
- Serves as the appeals board for relocation and correction of code violations as provided in Chapter 19.40.

When advising the City Council, the HAC is committed to addressing past and present racial and social inequities in housing and other community-development service delivery, approaching its recommendations through a social justice and tenant-centered lens and seeking to further the four P's of affordable housing: Production, Preservation, Protection, and Partnership.

Goal:

Recommend affordable housing and community development programs and policies that further social justice and address systemic racism, classism, and inequity in the city of Berkeley as outlined in HAC's FY 2026-27 work plan.

FY 2026-27 Work Plan Activities:

- Convene year-round subcommittees to work with staff on proposed HTF allocations and CDBG-funded public facilities improvements and make funding recommendations to the full HAC.
- Continue working with the Civic Arts Commission, via a joint subcommittee, regarding proposed artist housing initiatives and advocate for approval and implementation by City Council.
- Continue to be informed about CDBG-funded agencies and programs.
- Remain informed of and take action on any fiscal or budgetary impacts resulting from federal funding changes to funding streams that are the jurisdiction of the commission.

- Review and make recommendations to City Council regarding various affordable housing policies including updates on passed policy changes such as the Housing Preference Program implementation.

- Seek information via presentations, subcommittee work, etc. about Citywide initiatives that impact affordable housing preservation and development and make recommendations to City Council as appropriate. Initiatives include proposed and passed amendments to the demolition ordinance, the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Middle Housing Ordinance and other policies that have been passed or are being considered by council.
- Continue to study, develop and support the recommendations from the Social Housing Report.
- Get data on unmet need for extremely low-income housing and identify ways to meet it.
- Stay informed on upcoming housing bond initiatives.

Outcomes:

- Social housing recommendations implemented.
- HTF monies pledged to affordable housing projects serving families and housing-insecure households.
- CDBG-funded public facilities in support of non-profits maintained and rehabilitated.
- Proposed initiatives to promote affordable artist housing to retain and build the city's cultural infrastructure passed.
- A more efficient and effective CDBG-funded affordable housing preservation strategy that maximizes services that allow people to stay in their homes and thrive.
- Outcomes that are reflective of the community's actual needs and concerns through increased consideration and inclusion of community voices.
- The city of Berkeley increases its supply of affordable housing and preserves present affordable housing stock.