

2019 - 2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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24	3	A	1

Budget Action Title: Recommendations by OH for expansion of the Home Repair Loan Program

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: O'Brien, Mike

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Mosqueda

Staff Analyst: Aly Pennucci

Date	Total	BC	SB	TM	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Office of Housing (OH) prepare recommendations for a one-year pilot program expanding the existing Home Repair Loan Program. This new pilot would allow for loans to low-income homeowners who want to create additional habitable space on their property to house a family or community member and/or generate rental income. This could include finishing a basement, creating an attached accessory dwelling unit (ADU), upgrading a garage, or bringing an existing unregistered ADU up to code. The existing Home Repair program provides low-interest loans and grants to address immediate health and safety issues and structural deficiencies of homes occupied by low-income homeowners.

The SLI would also requests that OH identify any amendments to the Housing Funding policies necessary to allow for such a pilot, and develop a plan and timeline outlining how OH could launch the pilot in 2019, with a goal of providing five to ten loans to low-income homeowners.

Background

Over the last year Councilmember O’Brien’s office has been conducting a [racial equity toolkit \(RET\) on ADU policies](#). A key recommendation from the RET highlighted the need for expanding the City’s existing home repair program to create more habitable space in people’s homes so that individuals can provide housing for family, community, and possibly generate additional rental income.

Currently, OH runs a home repair program that provides low interest loans or grants (depending on qualification) to low income homeowners to address critical health and safety concerns. This SLI would pilot an expansion of this program using existing resources in the Home Repair Loan fund to allow for property improvements that create additional habitable space within the existing envelope of the property. These

improvements could allow a homeowner to house additional family members or generate additional rental income.

OH is requested to submit a report to the Chair of the Housing, Health, Energy, and Workers' Rights Committee and to the Executive Director of Council Central Staff, by February 28, 2019.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Housing, Health, Energy, and Workers' Rights Committee

Date Due to Council: February 28, 2019