

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 A RESOLUTION stating the Council’s intent to make changes to zoning and land use  
6 regulations to implement a mandatory inclusionary affordable housing program for  
7 residential development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for  
8 commercial development recommended by the Housing Affordability and Livability  
9 Agenda Advisory Committee and the Mayor; clarifying the scope of changes to be  
10 considered; establishing minimum outreach, planning, and implementation requirements  
11 that must be met prior to Council consideration; and requesting regular reporting.  
12

13 WHEREAS, in September 2014 the Council adopted and the Mayor concurred in Resolution  
14 31546, which established the Seattle Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda  
15 Advisory Committee (HALA); and

16 WHEREAS, in July 2015 HALA published its Final Advisory Committee Recommendations and  
17 the Mayor published Housing Seattle: A Roadmap to an Affordable and Livable City;

18 WHEREAS, both HALA and the Mayor recommend changes to zoning and land use regulations,  
19 which include implementing a mandatory inclusionary affordable housing program for  
20 residential development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for  
21 commercial development;

22 WHEREAS, these programs should be developed to achieve a projected production level of no  
23 fewer than 6,000 affordable units for households with incomes no higher than 60 percent  
24 of median income over ten years, and if the projected production levels fall below the  
25 target, the Council intends to consider options to achieve the production target; and

26 WHEREAS, successfully and expeditiously implementing those programs and other changes to  
27 zoning and land use regulations will require: continuous, ongoing, and inclusive  
28 participation by the public; environmental review; and development of programs to  
29 address impacts, such as transportation, parks and open space impacts;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**

3 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

4 Section 1. The Council intends to consider the following changes to zoning and land use  
5 regulations in order to implement a mandatory inclusionary housing program for residential  
6 development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for commercial development.  
7 Areas where the Council will consider implementing a mandatory inclusionary housing program  
8 for residential development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for  
9 commercial development are shown on Attachment A.

10 A. Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Program for Residential Development. The program  
11 should include a requirement that new multifamily and mixed-use buildings provide a percentage  
12 of units affordable to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of Area Median Income  
13 for 50 years. To implement the program, the Council will amend the Land Use Code to provide  
14 additional development capacity. Where it is possible to use the additional development capacity,  
15 the mandatory inclusionary housing program requirements will be applicable whether or not the  
16 additional development capacity is used. Where otherwise applicable development standards  
17 prevent the use of additional development capacity, the Council will consider establishing new  
18 development standards or an administrative process for relief from those development standards.

19 1. Downtown, South Lake Union, and First Hill Urban Centers. The program  
20 should include an option for a payment in-lieu of providing affordable units, provided that the  
21 payment does not exceed the approximate cost of developing the same number and quality of  
22 housing units that would otherwise be developed. For development accessing extra floor area  
23 above base height or density limits, the in-lieu payment should be equivalent to current incentive

1 zoning payments. However, where it is possible to use the additional development capacity, all  
2 development should be subject to a performance or fee obligation based on receiving the  
3 additional development capacity even if that capacity is not used. Such a development capacity  
4 increase will allow approximately 1,000 additional square feet per floor, or other comparable  
5 floor area, for residential towers.

6           2. Outside of Downtown, South Lake Union, and First Hill Urban Centers. For  
7 low and mid-rise multifamily and mixed-use zones the requirement should be no less than five  
8 percent of total units in lower-cost markets, six percent of total units in medium cost markets,  
9 and seven percent of total units in high cost markets. The program should include an option for a  
10 payment in-lieu of providing affordable units, provided that the payment does not exceed the  
11 approximate cost of developing the same number and quality of housing units that would  
12 otherwise be developed. To implement such a program, the Council will increase development  
13 capacity by increasing height approximately one additional floor or providing other comparable  
14 development capacity increases.

15           3. In all areas, in-lieu payments shall achieve a result equal to or better than  
16 providing the affordable housing on-site.

17           B. Affordable Housing Impact Mitigation Program for Commercial Development. The  
18 program should include a per-square-foot payment amount to mitigate, in part, the impact on the  
19 demand for affordable housing caused by new commercial development and an option to  
20 perform by providing units on- or off-site. The Council's intent in implementing the program is  
21 established in the ordinance introduced as Council Bill\_\_\_\_\_.

22           C. Converting Certain Single-Family-zoned Areas to Multi-family and Mixed-use. The  
23 Council will consider changing the zone designation of up to six percent of existing single-

1 family-zoned areas to zones that allow multifamily and mixed-use development to implement a  
2 mandatory inclusionary housing program for residential development and an affordable housing  
3 impact mitigation program for commercial development when those single-family-zoned areas  
4 are: (1) within urban centers or villages designated in the Comprehensive Plan, as those areas  
5 may be expanded to include a ten-minute walkshed from frequent transit service; or (2) in  
6 transition areas from existing multifamily and mixed-use zones along arterial streets. Changes to  
7 zone designations in these areas would require future development to participate in the  
8 mandatory inclusionary housing program for residential development and an affordable housing  
9 impact mitigation program for commercial development.

10 Section 2. Successfully and quickly implementing the changes to zoning and land use  
11 regulations described in Section 1 will require: continuous, ongoing, and inclusive participation  
12 by the public; environmental review; ongoing affordable housing needs assessments; and  
13 implementation of programs to address impacts, such as transportation, parks and open space  
14 impacts. The Council will only consider changes to land use and zoning if the following  
15 minimum outreach, planning, and mitigation requirements have been met.

16 A. Public Participation and Outreach. The Council requests that the Mayor develop an  
17 inclusive public outreach and engagement plan, which optimizes participation by under-  
18 represented communities. Such a plan should include opportunities for ongoing and continuous  
19 engagement through a variety of means including community meetings and social media. The  
20 Council further requests that the Mayor convene at least one facilitated meeting on the suite of  
21 changes to zoning and land use regulations outlined in this Resolution in each urban center or  
22 village. Meetings for adjacent or nearby urban centers or villages may be combined. The meeting  
23 should include representatives from the Department of Neighborhoods, the Office of Housing,

1 the Office of Economic Development, the Department of Planning and Development or its  
2 successor departments, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Parks and  
3 Recreation. Outreach and materials for the meetings should be culturally appropriate.

4 B. Coordination with Seattle 2035. The Council requests that planning and  
5 implementation of a mandatory inclusionary affordable housing program for residential  
6 development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for commercial development  
7 be coordinated with the ongoing 7-year Comprehensive Plan update, known as Seattle 2035.

8 Where possible, planning, public engagement, and reporting requested by this resolution should  
9 be integrated with planning, public engagement, and reporting for Seattle 2035.

10 C. Planning and Environmental Review. The Council requests that the Mayor develop  
11 necessary planning studies to inform decision makers and the public about proposed changes to  
12 zoning and land use regulations. Such studies should include, but are not limited to: (1)  
13 architectural massing studies that illustrate how increased development capacity would translate  
14 into the height, bulk and scale of new development relative to existing zoning and development;  
15 (2) view corridor studies from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) protected viewpoints; and  
16 (3) transportation, parks and open space impact studies. As appropriate, studies should be  
17 incorporated into environmental documents required under SEPA.

18 D. Programs to Address Impacts. The Council requests that concurrently with any  
19 legislative proposals to increase development capacity the Mayor continue to study  
20 implementation of a transportation impact fee and a parks impact fee. Any legislation to  
21 implement impact fees should include a prioritized list of capital improvement projects, by area,  
22 that would help mitigate the impact on transportation and parks facilities associated with new  
23 development.

1           E. Implementation Timeline. The Council requests that the Mayor strive to meet the  
2 implementation timeline set out in Attachment B.

3           Section 3. The Council requests that the Mayor report quarterly to the Select Committee  
4 on Housing Affordability. Reports should detail progress towards implementing changes to  
5 zoning and land use regulations. After the mandatory inclusionary housing program for  
6 residential development and an affordable housing impact mitigation program for commercial  
7 development have been implemented, the report should track progress towards creating 6,000  
8 new dwelling units affordable to households with incomes at or below sixty percent of Area  
9 Median Income (AMI). The first report should occur before the end of January 2016 and should  
10 include a proposed inclusive public engagement plan.

11

12

1 Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, and  
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_ day  
3 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

6  
7 The Mayor concurred the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

8  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

11  
12 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

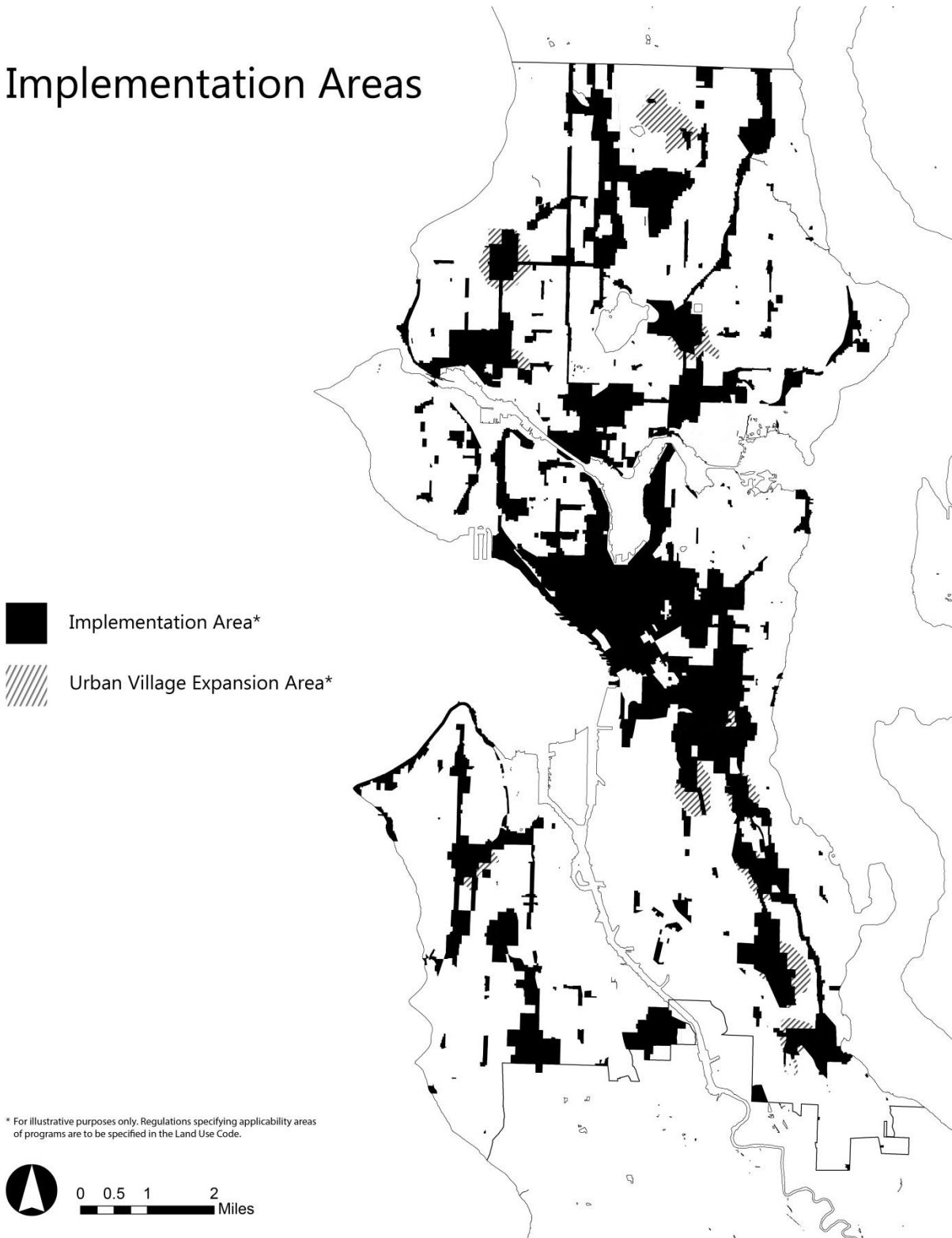
16  
17 (Seal)

18  
19  
20  
21  
22 Attachment A: Implementation Areas

23 Attachment B: Implementation Timeline

## Attachment A

# Implementation Areas





**Attachment B: Implementation Timeline**

July 2015 Aug 2015 Sept 2015 Oct 2015 Nov 2015 Dec 2015 Q1 2016 Q2 2016 Q3 2016 Q4 2016 Q1 2017 Q2 2017 Q3 2017

**1. Affordable Housing Impact Mitigation Program for Commercial Development**

A new Land Use Code Chapter 23.58B that sets out program requirements and affordable housing payment and performance levels to mitigate commercial development in all zones. Program is not effective until rezones are made.

a. Draft and refine legislation	[Bar: July 2015 - Aug 2015]											
b. City Council review and action	[Bar: Aug 2015 - Oct 2015]											

**2. Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Framework Legislation**

A new Land Use Code Chapter 23.58C that sets out program requirements for inclusionary housing. Program is not effective until rezones are made.

a. Draft and refine legislation	[Bar: Sept 2015 - Dec 2015]											
b. City Council Review and action	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q2 2016]											

**3. South Lake Union Zoning Changes**

Zoning changes increasing allowable residential floor plate limits by ~1,000 sf and increase of FAR by ~1.0 and other associated zoning refinements to activate MIH and Commercial Mitigation programs.

a. SEPA Addendum to 2012 EIS	[Bar: Sept 2015 - Oct 2015]											
b. Community review and engagement	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
c. Draft and refine legislation	[Bar: Nov 2015 - Dec 2015]											
d. VIZ Code re-write/clean up	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q3 2016]											
e. City Council review and action on zoning changes	[Bar: Q2 2016 - Q3 2016]											

**4. Downtown Zoning Changes**

Zoning changes increasing allowable residential floor plate limits by ~1,000 sf and increase of FAR by ~1.0, and/or height limit increases to allow ~1 additional story, depending on the zone, and other associated zoning refinements to activate MIH and Commercial Mitigation programs.

a. New SEPA evaluation and Determination	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
b. Community review and engagement	[Bar: Nov 2015 - Dec 2015]											
c. Draft and refine legislation	[Bar: Dec 2015 - Q1 2016]											
d. VIZ Code re-write/clean up	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q3 2016]											
e. City Council review and action on zoning changes	[Bar: Q2 2016 - Q3 2016]											

**5. University District Urban Design Framework Zoning Changes**

Make zoning changes in the U District consistent with the Urban Design Framework. Zoning changes also activate the MIH / CLF programs.

a. Urban design framework	complete											
b. EIS work												
c. Draft and refine zoning change legislation	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
d. Additional community review and engagement	[Bar: Nov 2015 - Dec 2015]											
e. City Council review and action on zoning changes	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q3 2016]											

**6. Updates Related to Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan**

Establish expanded urban villages on the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map.

a. Seattle 2035 preferred alternative outreach	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
b. Community engagement to consider urban village expansions	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
c. Final Seattle 2035 Plan	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q3 2016]											
d. City Council Review and Action	[Bar: Q2 2016 - Q3 2016]											

**7. Other Rezones with Area Planning**

As rezones are made through area planning work for sub-areas, activation of the MIH / commercial mitigation programs can be made.

23rd Ave. Urban Design Framework	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q2 2016]											
Uptown Urban Center Urban Design Framework	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
Rainier Beach Community Planning	[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q3 2016]											
Ballard	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
Others TBD...												

**8 Citywide zoning changes for Mandatory Inclusionary Housing & Mitigation for Commercial Development**

Zoning changes allowing approximately one additional story in all zones that allow multi-family development, and rezones of single family areas within urban villages to residential small lot or a Lowrise zone, to activate the MIH / commercial mitigation programs.

a. EIS structure & consultant selection	[Bar: Sept 2015 - Oct 2015]											
b. EIS evaluation including impacts, urban design, massing etc.	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]		[Bar: Q1 2016 - Q2 2016]		[Bar: Q3 2016 - Q4 2016]							
c. Community review and engagement	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
d. Draft and refine zoning code changes	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
Commercial / Neighb. Comm zones	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
Multi-family zones	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
Changes to single family areas in urban villages	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											
e. City Council review and action (Packages of rezones by zone category or geography are expected)	[Bar: Oct 2015 - Dec 2015]											

July 2015 Aug 2015 Sept 2015 Oct 2015 Nov 2015 Dec 2015 Q1 2016 Q2 2016 Q3 2016 Q4 2016 Q1 2017 Q2 2017 Q3 2017

# **Housing Seattle: A Roadmap to an Affordable and Livable City**

## **An Action Plan to Address Seattle's Affordability Crisis**

July 13, 2015

---

**Proposed by Mayor Ed Murray**



# Letter from the Mayor

Seattle is one of America's fastest-growing cities, presenting new challenges and opportunities for those who live and work here. As our economy and population grow, housing prices and rents have skyrocketed. As a result, thousands of families and workers – particularly lower-income people and among communities of color – are unable to afford the cost of living in Seattle.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis that demands creative and bold solutions. That's why the City Council and I commissioned a Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) advisory committee last fall. The 28-member HALA committee brought together perspectives from affordable housing advocates, developers, land-use experts, tenants, businesses and nonprofits. After months of deliberation, they reached consensus on 65 recommendations to consider.

The following document is my comprehensive action plan that will serve as a roadmap to thousands of new affordable housing units in our city. Based on HALA's report, this strategy addresses the costs and availability of housing, and reflects Seattle's core values of equity and inclusion. This plan will help achieve my goal of seeing 50,000 new units of housing built or preserved over the next 10 years, with 20,000 of those units designated affordable.

This is a multi-pronged approach that calls for innovative changes in how Seattle plans and accommodates housing, as well as a shared commitment between taxpayers, businesses and nonprofits to support the construction and preservation of affordable housing. It requires market-rate developers to build affordable units in their apartment buildings, and commercial developers to contribute to the production and preservation of affordable housing. It also identifies changes to outdated zoning laws to spur the construction of more affordable housing.

We also will work to renew and double the Seattle Housing Levy, which is critical to housing those most in need. And we will streamline the regulatory and design review process to reduce the costs of construction. Finally, our strategy provides stronger protections for vulnerable tenants and homeowners.

Roughly 45,000 households in Seattle spend more than half of their incomes on housing, and at least 2,800 are experiencing homelessness. This affordable housing crisis threatens to erode our city's diversity and character unless we act now.

My goal is a city where people of all backgrounds can find affordable homes in walkable, livable neighborhoods with access to parks and transit. We all share a responsibility to make Seattle a more affordable and equitable city. Together, we can move forward with this plan and ensure Seattle is a place for people of all incomes to live and enjoy.

Sincerely,



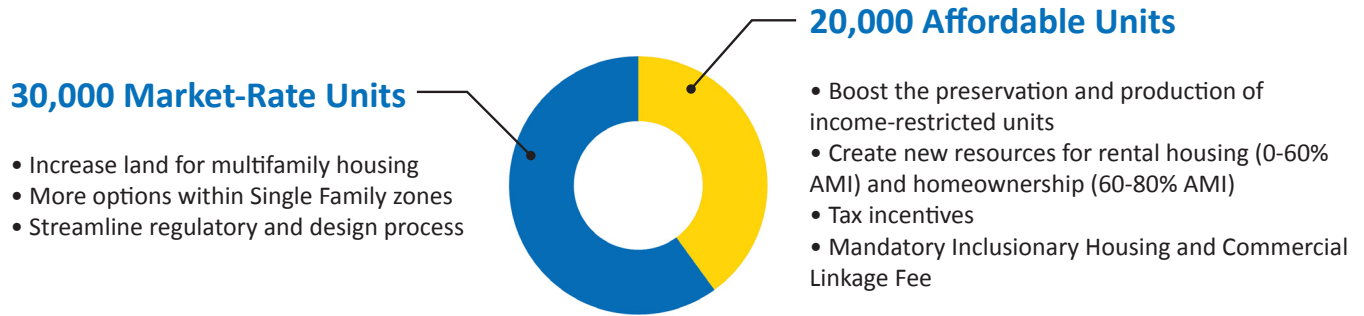
Mayor Edward B. Murray



*“This is a multi-pronged approach that calls for innovative changes in how Seattle plans and accommodates housing, as well as a shared commitment between taxpayers, businesses and nonprofits to support the construction and preservation of affordable housing.”*

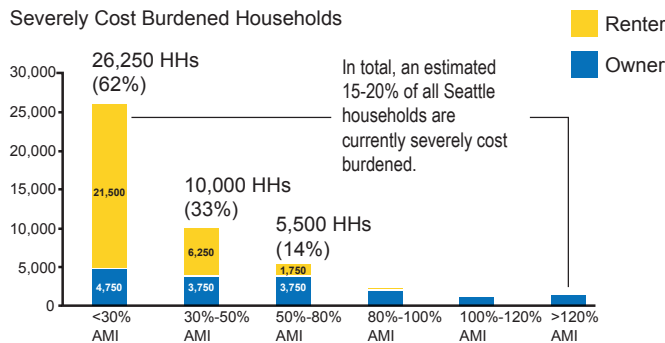
# The Goal: 50,000 housing units over the next 10 years

This plan calls for a tripling of affordable housing production and inclusion of affordability in all new developments.



## Top four facts about this affordability crisis

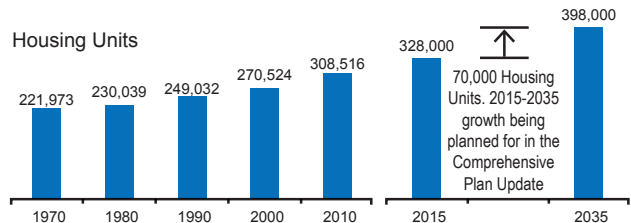
### 1. Seattle's lowest income households struggle to pay for basic necessities to afford housing.



#### Severely Cost Burdened Households

Source: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, CHAS, 2006-2010 5-Year American Community Survey, Seattle city. Note: These are rough estimates.

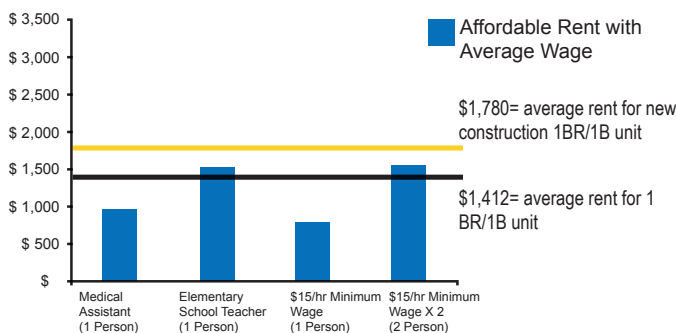
### 2. Seattle's population is projected to increase by another 120,000 people by 2035.



#### Seattle's Growing Population and Housing Stock

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census; 2015 to 2035 growth estimate in "Updating Seattle's Comprehensive Plan Background Report"; 2015 housing informal projection by SPC Demographer.

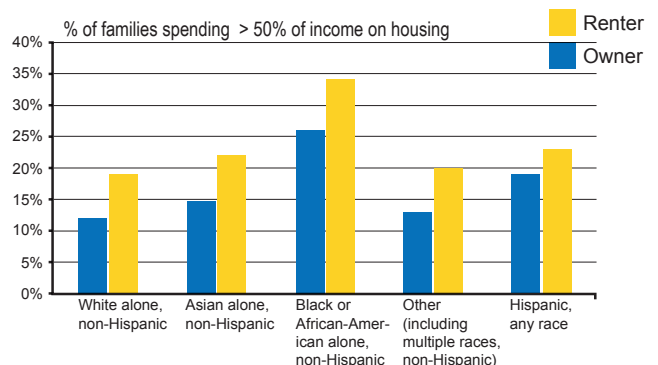
### 3. Many people in occupations critical to our economy are unable to afford housing.



#### Housing Affordability for Working Households-1 Bedroom

Source: Dupre+Scott Apartment Advisors, Apartment Vacancy Report, 20+ unit buildings, Fall 2014. Seattle-14 market areas; WA Employment Security Department, Occupational Employment & Wage Estimates, Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA MD, 2014.

### 4. People of color are disproportionately impacted by high housing costs.



#### Severe Housing Cost Burden by Race/Ethnicity

Source: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, CHAS, 2006-2010; 5-Year American Community Survey, Seattle city.

# Key Policies and Programs

**Invest in Housing for Those Most in Need: Adopt a balanced approach to provide affordable housing resources for low-income workers, seniors, people with disabilities and the thousands of people experiencing homelessness.**

---

**Double the Seattle Housing Levy:** Everyone should have an opportunity to live in a safe, affordable home. Doubling the voter approved Seattle Housing Levy to \$290 million will build and preserve thousands of quality, affordable homes for the most vulnerable families and individuals in our community and for low wage workers. This innovative property tax levy has been approved five times by Seattle voters and is hailed as a national model. The Housing Levy has a 30-year track record of creating affordable housing with services to support at-risk families, seniors and people with disabilities, providing rental assistance to prevent homelessness, and preserving housing to prevent displacement of long-term residents.

**Enact a Real Estate Excise Tax for Affordable Housing:** Seattle is experiencing a major boom in its real estate market. A 0.25 percent tax on real estate transfers could generate roughly \$15-25 million each year to build new affordable housing in Seattle. This ensures that a portion of the value generated through rising land prices—in large part created through public investments in sidewalks, parks and transit—is recaptured and used to invest in critical affordable housing. The City will advocate in the state legislature to pass this stable, progressive local funding option that provides a new resource to build needed affordable housing for low-income workers and vulnerable people.

**Maximize Surplus and Underutilized Public Property for Affordable Housing:** Intense competition for limited land drives up cost and makes it challenging to build affordable homes for low-income residents. Publicly owned vacant and underutilized land is a public asset that must be used strategically to

create affordable homes in our community. Building affordable housing on developable public land in key locations near transit and job centers is invaluable in helping low-income workers and families live close to jobs and schools, while decreasing congestion and pollution. Using the proceeds from public land sales to build affordable housing is a smart way to use our precious city resources to advance our shared value of building a diverse, equitable Seattle.

**Direct \$42 Million to Rental Housing Production and Preservation:** This year, the City will invest a record \$42 million from the Seattle Housing Levy and the existing incentive zoning program for the development and preservation of low-income housing. The Seattle Office of Housing will issue project guidelines and invite partner applications immediately.

**Lead Efforts to Create a Voluntary Employers Fund:** It is essential for our regional economy and good for business when workers of all incomes can afford to live near their jobs. In a period of robust job growth, employers can be part of the solution to provide affordable housing for Seattle's workers. The City will partner with local employers, many of whom have a longstanding commitment to community investment, to contribute to a City fund that builds and preserves affordable housing. This successful partnership has been key in other high-cost areas, like Silicon Valley, in addressing the community's range of affordable housing needs.

## **Create New and Affordable Housing for All Seattleites: Harness new development to create affordable homes and diversify housing choices for current and future residents.**

---

**Build Affordability as We Grow (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Commercial Linkage Fee):** It is critical that Seattle ensures affordability for households across the income spectrum as its population and employment continue to grow. The City will introduce both a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program that ensures new residential developments include affordable housing units and a Commercial Linkage Fee ensuring commercial developers contribute funds for the production and preservation of affordable housing. Upzones in proportion to these requirements would be provided.

**Increase Opportunities for Multifamily Housing:** The City will expand housing opportunities to a broader array of household types and incomes by devoting a greater amount of land to multifamily housing, particularly in areas near transit, services and amenities. Seattle's Urban Village growth strategy will be bolstered by expanding the boundaries of Urban Villages to reflect walking proximity to amenities and by rezoning Single Family areas within Urban Villages to allow more intensive development where the City is targeting its growth. Increased height limits and modified building and fire codes would further increase the economies of wood frame multifamily construction and lead to more affordable housing options for families. Any increase in development capacity will be tied to an affordability requirement.

**Increase Access, Affordability, Diversity and Inclusion within Single Family Areas:** The exclusivity of Single Family zones limits the type of housing available, limits the presence of smaller format housing and limits access for those with lower incomes. The City will allow more variety of housing scaled to fit within traditional Single Family areas to increase the economic and demographic diversity. The broader mix of housing will include small lot dwellings, cottages or courtyard housing, rowhouses, duplexes, triplexes and stacked flats. Although a broader variety of housing would be permitted, the total amount of building area on a single lot will remain the same (excluding ADUs and DADUs) and it does not eliminate the option of single family housing.

**Expand the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption Program (MFTE):** MFTE is an effective and popular incentive program that ensures 20 percent of housing in participating new developments is affordable for low-and moderate-income people. In exchange for on-site affordability, the City provides a partial property tax exemption for up to 12 years. In 2015, when the program expires, the City will renew and expand MFTE to all multifamily areas, allow all unit types to participate in the program and incorporate a new incentive for building larger units so that families have more affordable housing choices throughout the city. MFTE housing is vital to providing housing to retail and service workers, entry level professionals and retirees on fixed incomes.

## **Prevent Displacement and Foster Equitable Communities:** **Preserve communities impacted by displacement by promoting strategic investments and creating legal protections for low-income renters.**

---

**Target a Preservation Property Tax Exemption to Communities at Risk of Displacement:** Seattle needs a tool that can mitigate the pressure on its existing housing stock, which is causing rent increases and displacement of low-income renters to outside of the city. A Preservation Property Tax Exemption would extend the Multifamily Tax Exemption to existing buildings in exchange for guaranteeing continued affordability. The City will develop a legislative proposal and advocacy strategy to advance this critical item through the state legislature.

**Make Strategic Investments to Minimize Displacement:** Displacement is happening throughout Seattle, and particular communities are at high risk of displacement. Seattle will make robust investments to anchor and strengthen those communities. This includes investments in new development and affordable housing preservation and coordinated, targeted investments in economic development, transit and education.

**Strengthen the Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance (TRAO):** Seattle requires relocation assistance be paid to low-income renters who are displaced by new development. However, our current law should be strengthened to provide better protections for a broad range of renters. The City will commit funding to provide education and tenant assistance to vulnerable populations, particularly those with language or other barriers to gaining the assistance they deserve. We will also evaluate the current definition of “tenant household” to improve equitable distribution of relocation assistance support.

**Prevent Displacement of Low-Income Homeowners:** Buying a home in Seattle during a time of rising home prices is out of reach for most low-income families. That means it is even more critical to prevent displacement of existing low-income homeowners. The City will explore ways to help stabilize low-income

homeowners and will build off the success of existing repair and weatherization programs and pursue policies to provide assistance to homeowners with financial hardships that threaten their housing.

**Remove Barriers to Housing for People with Criminal Histories:** The City will work with stakeholders to develop legislation that ensures fair access to housing for people with criminal records. Stable housing ensures people can engage with their communities and families and obtain stable employment. Deep-rooted inequities in the criminal justice system have created lasting effects on communities of color that have created barriers to housing. Furthering fair housing for all our residents is an affirmation of the City’s longstanding commitment to race and social justice.

**Support the Community in Finding Housing Tools for Sharia-Compliant Lending:** For our low – and moderate – income Muslim neighbors who follow Sharia law – which prohibits the payment of interest or fees for loans of money – there are limited options for financing a home. Some Muslims are unable to use conventional mortgage products due to religious convictions. The City will convene lenders, housing nonprofits and community leaders to explore the best options for increasing access to Sharia-compliant loan products to help these residents become homeowners in Seattle.

**Protect Renters from Discrimination Based on Source of Income:** Renters who receive income from Social Security, veteran’s benefits, child support, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Section 8 vouchers should not face barriers to housing based on their income type. It is currently illegal under City law to discriminate against a tenant based on the use of a Section 8 voucher. The City will introduce legislation that expands anti-discrimination laws to include other verifiable sources of income.

## **Promote Efficient and Innovative Development: Deliver effective and streamlined government services to facilitate quality housing development.**

### **Streamline City Codes and Permitting Processes:**

The time and complexity involved in obtaining the necessary City approvals to build new housing can be a significant cost driver. To make meaningful progress toward a more efficient system, the City will be proactive and persistent in its efforts to integrate and coordinate permitting processes across all departments (DPD, SDOT and utility agencies). Additionally, the City will streamline its codes to be sensible, transparent and coherent reflections of City planning and laws.

### **Reform Design Review and Historic Review:**

Design Review and Historic Review are critical to ensure new buildings contribute positively to our neighborhoods. However, these tools add unpredictability and time to the process of bringing new housing online, which ultimately adds cost and decreases affordability. Through legislation, the City will improve these processes to continue their important functions in a way that is more predictable, efficient and considers the impacts of the decisions on the cost of housing.

### **Pilot Credit Enhancement at Yesler Terrace:**

The City remains firmly committed to its partnership with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to transform Yesler Terrace into a vibrant, mixed-income neighborhood that creates opportunities for new and existing residents. The task of replacing all 591 units of public housing is of great urgency, and the City will do all in its power to ensure that SHA delivers on the promise to provide a new home for every resident who wishes to exercise their right to return and rebuild their community. To further this partnership, the City will pilot a credit enhancement program that will utilize the City's AAA credit rating to help SHA finance replacement housing as quickly as possible. This partnership is expected to help SHA save millions of dollars in financing costs – savings that will be used to fund other critical services for Yesler residents such as education, job placement and health clinics.

### **Comprehensive Parking Reform:**

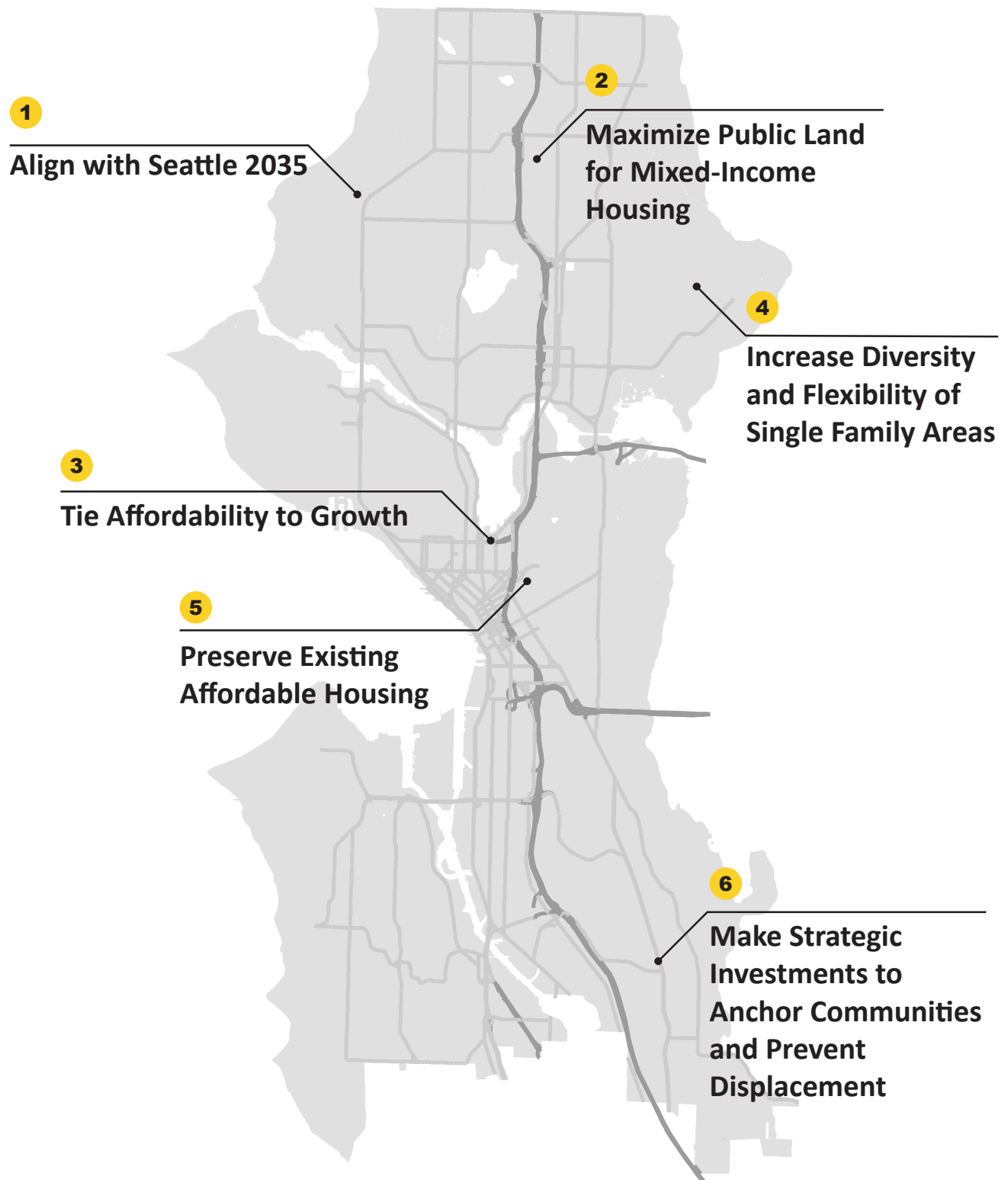
Requirements that new development include off-street parking adds to the cost of constructing a unit and limits the number of units possible on a site – indirectly limiting the density of housing and precluding opportunities to develop more affordable housing. The City will reform its parking policies to support housing affordability and access by: (1) clarifying the definition of frequent transit service to reduce parking requirements in transit areas; (2) reducing parking requirements for multifamily housing outside of Urban Centers and Urban Villages that have frequent transit service; (3) ensuring that parking mandates are not reintroduced in Urban Centers and Urban Villages; and (4) removing parking requirements for accessory dwelling units and other small-scale housing types in Single Family areas.





# Growing Affordably: Implementing the Mayor's Action Plan

The roadmap to an affordable and livable city addresses all areas in Seattle.





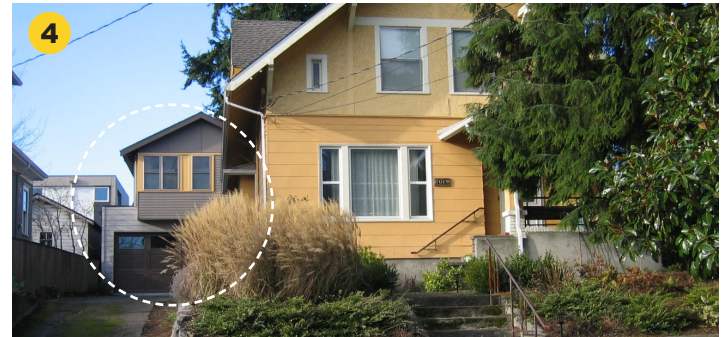
1 As the City identifies its growth strategy, we must ensure that public services and amenities are included in new and continuing growth areas. Leveraging the Transit Benefit District and the Metropolitan Parks District, the City will ensure that services and amenities are provided for both existing and new and expanded multifamily areas, strengthening the livability of our Urban Villages and Neighborhoods.



2 Using public land to help subsidize affordable housing investments means that low-income workers have opportunities to live affordably near transit, jobs and amenities, which is good for families, the environment and our transit system. In new transit hubs like Sound Transit's Roosevelt and Northgate stations, the City will work with government agencies to secure land to build much needed mixed-income housing.



3 The City will create a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program to mitigate impacts of new development on the demand for affordable housing in Seattle. In all areas of the city, where growth is occurring, a portion of new buildings will be required to include affordable housing or pay for it to be built elsewhere. In residential areas, like Wallingford, new housing will be required to include a percentage of affordable units through Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. In commercial areas, like South Lake Union, a new Linkage Fee will be collected on new commercial development to mitigate impacts.



4 Single Family areas can welcome more housing options within the scale of the existing neighborhood, such as cottage housing, small duplexes and backyard cottages.



5 The City's strategic approach to preservation will target strategies based on neighborhood characteristics and needs. In a community facing rising rents due to market pressures, the City will pursue legislation that helps owners keep properties affordable by using tax incentives to get private landlords to stabilize rents for the long term. The City will also use increased resources to invest in the acquisition and rehab of distressed properties. In Capitol Hill, the City invested funds in Capitol Hill Housing's acquisition and preservation of the Holiday Apartments, an at-risk property centrally located at the doorstep of the new Link light rail station. The investment ensures that rents at this location remain affordable for 50 years.



6 The City's strategic approach to mitigate impacts of displacement will include comprehensive investments in housing and other services in at-risk communities. In the Othello neighborhood, Mercy Housing is using City financing to build 108 new units of affordable family-sized housing next to the Link Light Rail station. In addition, the City coordinated housing with key economic development investments to stabilize and empower an established multicultural business district. Efforts like these rely on strong City partnerships with community partners like Othello business owners and the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund.

# Scaling Success

With strong housing and livability strategies in place, the City can do more of what it does well.



Kenan

## Helping people who work in Seattle, live in Seattle:

When Kenan's rent was increased, he went looking for an affordable apartment in his neighborhood but came up short. Then he asked the nearby Thornton Place apartments if they had anything more affordable. His initiative paid off, with an income-qualified unit, made possible by the Multifamily Tax Exemption program. Now Kenan, an HR worker with a local company, can remain in the community he's come to love. "Living here, I don't have to live check to check."

*Creating housing opportunities that are affordable to households earning a wide range of incomes requires innovative solutions like the Multifamily Tax Exemption. By honing and expanding our incentive programs, the City is able to increase affordable housing options for modest wage workers in new apartment buildings without direct subsidy.*

## Serving those who served. Stable housing improves lives:

Following nine years of service in the Army and National Guard, Krystal lost her job as a civilian contractor and held various odd jobs before finding herself homeless. Then, thanks to a transitional housing program, she was referred to stable housing at the Plymouth Housing's Williams Apartments, one of the many buildings funded with Housing Levy dollars. This centrally-located building offered not just the stability Krystal needed, but the case management to help her succeed.

*With new resources from an increased Housing Levy and Real Estate Excise Tax and new service funding from a Medicaid Benefit, all veterans can find safe homes in Seattle, fulfilling the Mayor's challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. As partners in the Committee to End Homelessness, regional collaboration is critical, so is a renewed commitment from the federal government. Our government partners must play an essential role in increasing funding to build homes and provide operating and service funding that can turn people's lives around.*



Krystal



Chau and Wayne

## Providing options for families:

Housing is one of a family's largest costs and finding an affordable place to live in one's own community is critical. For Chau and Wayne, who live in ArtSpace's Mt. Baker Lofts with their two children, it is also about contributing to the community. Having an affordable rent allows this family to live in the community where they work and volunteer: Wayne can take light rail to his job as a high school wrestling coach and Chau can provide therapy for local neighbors and volunteer as an art teacher at a local middle school.

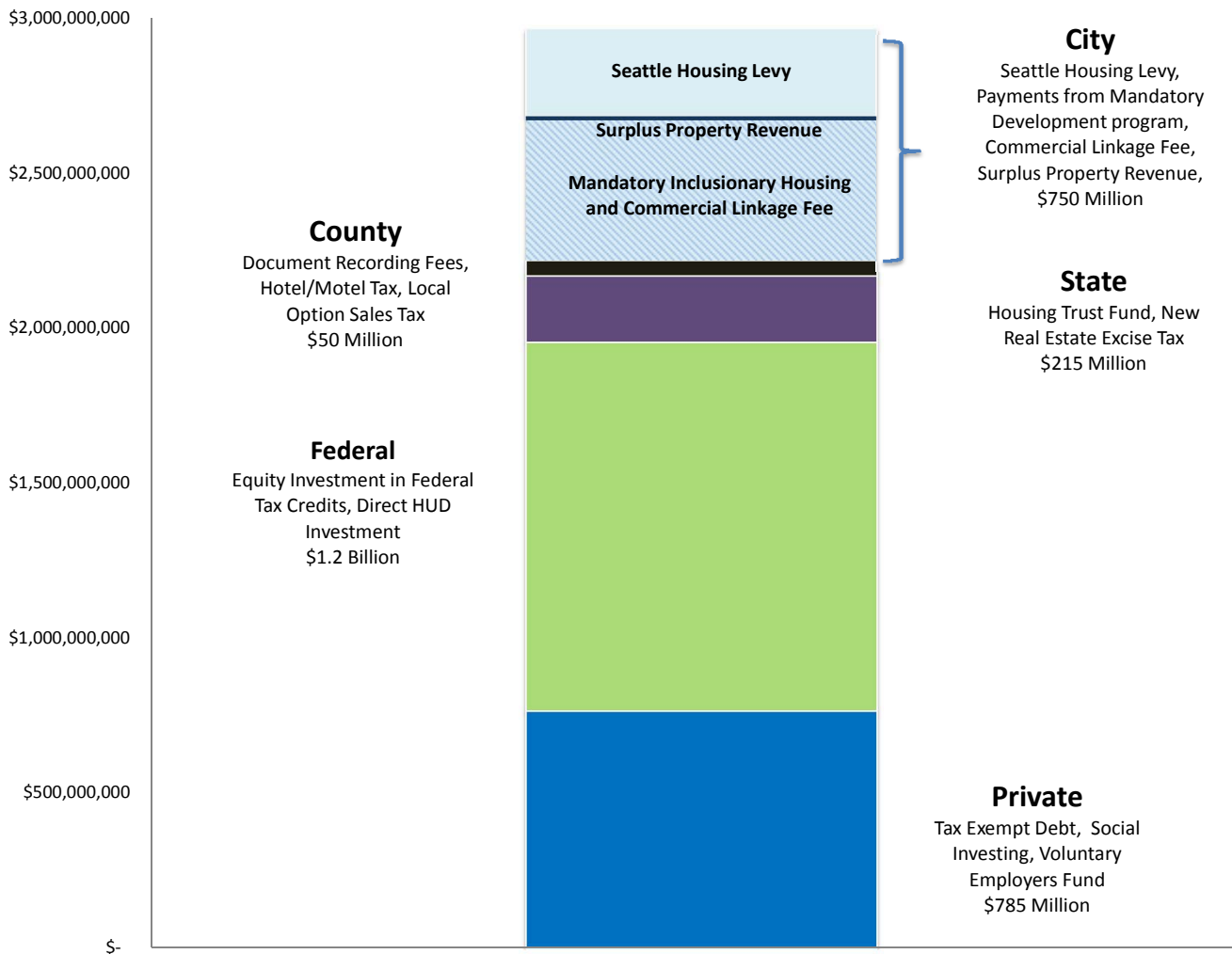
*City investments are crucial to provide family-sized, affordable homes to low-wage workers in Seattle. For 30 years, the Seattle Housing Levy has been a key funding source to leverage even more resources to create housing that is affordable to low-wage workers and families, ensuring that our community remains diverse and equitable. We need more resources to meet the need. Increased resources for low-income housing, including the redevelopment of publicly owned land, revenue from a Voluntary Employers Fund and a doubled Housing Levy, will help ensure that hard working families can live near transit, jobs and cultural communities.*

# Getting to 20,000 Affordable Homes

Achieving the goal of 20,000 affordable homes in 10 years will take an aggressive investment strategy that calls on all our partners to be part of the solution.

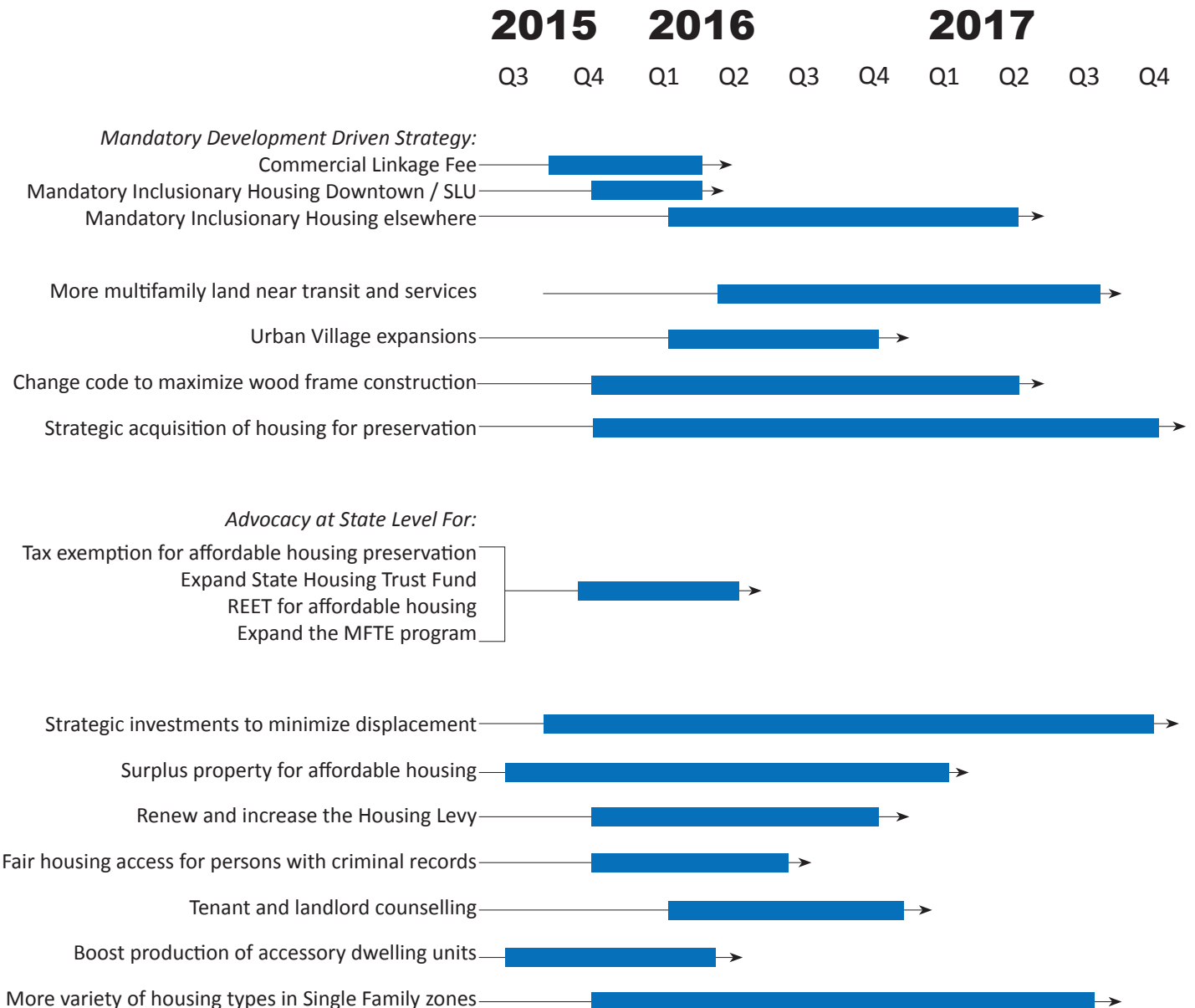
Locally, we are taking a balanced approach by utilizing diverse revenue streams and spreading responsibility across sectors. This plan is also a call to action to the state and federal governments to match local commitments and reinvest in our shared commitment to creating affordable communities. Federal resources will be crucial not only for financing new housing, but also for funding supportive services and operations of housing for those experiencing homelessness.

## Capital Investments toward 20,000 Affordable Homes in 10 Years



# Seattle's Timeline for Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis

## 15 Action Steps



For more information, visit <http://murray.seattle.gov/housing>

