HOUSING SECTION NEWSLETTER

City of Flagstaff

HOUSING AUTHORITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

On November 30, 2021, several City of Flagstaff Housing Authority staff were awarded an Aspen Excellence Award for Teamwork by City Manager Greg Clifton during City Council. The award was presented to:

- Tracey French,
- Cherise Barreto-Aguilar,
- Caleb Alexander,
- Dione Paul,
- Jayne Wittman,
- Patricia Sauers,
- Amanda Thomas,
- Ray Slim,
- Keith Nutumya,
- Isi Gallegos,
- Troy Delmar,
- Jose Romero, and
- Harold Yazzie.

These staff demonstrated superb dependability and professionalism while working directly with Public Housing, Section 8, and Clark Homes program participants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

THANK YOU CHAIR ELLMAN AND VICE CHAIR HOUSE FOR YOUR SERVICE

The City of Flagstaff would like to sincerely thank Chair Nicole Ellman and Vice Chair Khara House for both serving two terms as Chair and Vice Chair on the Housing Commission. Chair Ellman and Vice Chair House guided the Commission in establishing ground rules, made recommendation for potential 2020 and 2022 bond measures, and served as resources in creating Flagstaff's 10-Year Housing Plan. Thank you both for your knowledge and commitment to the Housing Commission and to the City of Flagstaff!

Now, with great honor, the City of Flagstaff Housing Section welcomes Chair Khara House and Vice-Chair Tyler Denham to lead the Housing Commission into another productive year.

Chair Nicole Ellman (2020, 2021)

Vice Chair Khara House (2020,2021) Chairperson (2022)

Vice Chair Tyler Denham (2022)

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE HOUSING COMMISSION

The Housing Commission has three open seats in the Building and Real Estate Professionals categories. Two of the seats are required for a local builder and developer. For more details, refer to the Commission's Enacting Authority. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please apply. Click here for a commission application form.

The Commission strengthens City Council's goal to "Support development and increase the inventory of public and private affordable housing for renters and homeowners." Flagstaff's Housing Commission also assures that an open, inclusive, and transparent process is utilized in the discussion, prioritization, and presentation of recommendations that address the community's housing needs.

The Housing Commission meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 1 pm - 3 pm. Applicants must reside in City limits and be over the age of 18 years to be eligible to serve. For questions, please email LBloom@FlagstaffAZ.gov.

FLAGSTAFF'S 10-YEAR HOUSING PLAN

The Draft 10-Year Housing Plan's public comment period has officially closed. The community forum garnered 327 responses. Coupling these with the comments received through the presentations and community outreach, there are more than 600 written comments. Housing and Comprehensive Planners are working to review and categorize the comments.

Staff will present the final 10-Year Housing Plan to the Housing Commission on January 27, 2022 and to Flagstaff City Council for consideration of adoption on February 15, 2022.

Public Comment Opportunities Regarding the Final 10-Year Housing Plan

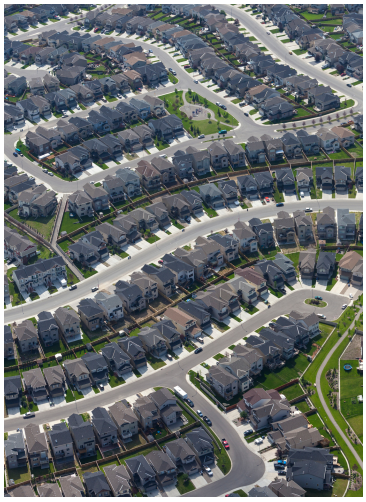
- January 27, 2022 – Housing Commission Meeting
- February 15, 2022 – City Council Meeting

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS!

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) cycle for the 2022 Program Year will kick off right after the new year! On **January 13, 2022 at 11 am**, City staff will host the annual Notice of Funding Available (NoFA) public meeting. The meeting will be held virtually and a link for the meeting is posted on the CDBG webpage. Staff will offer a presentation to community members and interested agencies on the basics of CDBG, its potential uses, and the City's NoFA and award process.

Immediately following the meeting, the application will be released. Technical assistance meetings with the Housing Section's CDBG Administrator, Kristine Pavlik, are strongly encouraged. They can be scheduled now by emailing Kristine.Pavlik@FlagstaffAZ.gov.

Applications for funding will be due to the City by **February 22, 2022, by 5 pm**. For further details, please visit the City of Flagstaff's website.



INCENTIVE POLICY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Meetings with the Working Group are complete for the time being, and Project Managers are now reviewing the existing incentive policy for content to carry over into the revised incentive strategy document. A draft of the new strategy is in the works. New concepts for both the zoning code and fee-based incentives are being reviewed with the Advisory team over several meetings. Input from the Advisors will clarify direction and content to be discussed in a preliminary City Council work session this winter.

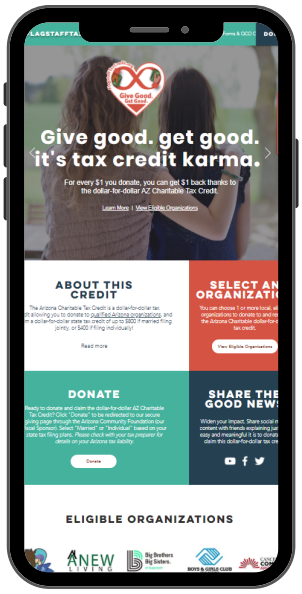
For more information about this project, contact Jennifer Mikelson, Housing Analyst, at (928) 213-2744 or JMikelson@FlagstaffAZ.gov.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The City of Flagstaff provides down payment and closing cost assistance, as well as affordable homeownership opportunities through the land trust/deed-restricted program.

- The **Community Land Trust Program** offers affordable ownership for low to moderate-income households through a shared equity homeownership model. In exchange for an affordable purchase price, homeowners agree to limit their equity so that the next qualified buyer can benefit from an affordable sales price. This agreement is secured in a ground lease between the City and the homeowner. Interested buyers must meet specific requirements to qualify for purchase. To learn more, download the flyer (PDF) or visit the City's website.
- The **Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)** is intended to educate and serve households that are working towards the purchase of a home within the Flagstaff city limits. Funded by the City of Flagstaff, CHAP is a down payment and closing cost assistance program that provides up to $15,000 in matching funds to households to purchase a home but are otherwise mortgage-eligible based on credit and employment. To learn more, download the flyer (PDF).
- The **Employer Assisted Housing (EAH)** program provides up to $10,000 per household to eligible City of Flagstaff employees to be used for down payment and/or closing cost on the purchase of a home. EAH funds will match buyer contribution on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to a benefit of $10,000 per household. To learn more, download the flyer (PDF).

An application for all programs and details on how to apply can be found on the City's website.



FLAGSTAFF TAX CREDIT COALITION

The Flagstaff Tax Credit Coalition is a group of local qualified organizations that work to meet the basic needs of Flagstaff low-income neighbors. Donations to qualified organizations qualify for a state income tax credit. Arizona taxpayers can donate to one or more qualified members and get those dollars back in a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit on their 2021 state income taxes. Individuals can receive up to $400 and couples filing jointly can receive up to $800.

The AZ Charitable Tax Credit is a powerful tool to help AZ taxpayers direct their tax dollars to local proven programs, helping to meet basic needs and keep caseworkers and nonprofit workers employed.

For more information and to make a secure online donation to the organization(s) of your choice, visit the Flagstaff Tax Credit Coalition's website.