

City of Columbus

Public Participation Plan

Comprehensive Plan Housing Chapter Update – 2026



Background

Wisconsin statute 66.1001 requires municipalities to adopt and/or update a comprehensive plan every 10 years. The City of Columbus last updated their comprehensive plan in 2021. However, certain grants through WHEDA require an updated housing element of the comprehensive plan within 5 years of the application date. Thus, the City must create and adopt an updated Housing Chapter to remain eligible for grants and loan programs.

Public participation is an important part of this process, and is statutorily necessary under Wis. Stat. 66.1001(4)(a) which states, “The governing body of a local governmental unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan...”. This document outlines the ways in which the City of Columbus will comply with this statute during the Housing Chapter update.

Goals

To ensure statutory compliance and meaningful public participation, this plan aims to meet the following goals:

- Receive feedback from all key stakeholder groups (City Alders and Commissioners, Residents, Property Owners, Business Owners, Developers, and the General Public)
- Provide spaces for public comment throughout the process
- Ensure participation of resident groups that are typically underrepresented

Plan Elements

Social Media: Social Media pages used to inform the public about project and ways to participate

Web Page: Create page on City website where citizens may find the survey and updates on the project

Survey: At beginning of process, open a survey and comment space to the public. After a draft has been made available, open a second space for public comments.

Meetings: To receive specific feedback, two focus groups will be held, one with a group of residents and the other with a group of property owners. Additionally, a workshop with the

planning commission will be held during the drafting process. After a draft has been made, there will be a public hearing to get feedback from interested members of the public.

