

Local Flexibility for Affordable Housing

Proposal:

Allow urban renewal area funds to be spent outside URA borders for the purpose of funding affordable housing below 80% of Median Family Income. It must be demonstrated that the housing will benefit the district through a "Finding of Benefit."

Purpose: The legislation would create much needed flexibility for spending resources in urban areas with increasingly limited supplies of land with which to build affordable housing. CDN and Affordable Housing Now! are willing to be leaders on this issue, however will look first to the city of Portland.

Background:

Many city of Portland City Commissioners and Portland Development Commissioners have expressed verbal support for the legislation. It is hoped they will add this item to their legislative agenda shortly and be leaders on this issue. As an example, outside of district spending is allowed in California. If the housing funds are used to develop housing outside the redevelopment district, it must be demonstrated that the housing will benefit the district through a "Finding of Benefit".

Last session, representative Dingfelder introduced legislation on this issue. No hearing took place.

The intent of the legislation would not be to create any new requirements but to create enabling legislation to allow local decision making regarding URA spending for affordable housing. Contact Sam Chase with any questions, 503-335-9884 or sam@cdnportland.org.