

# Appendix B: Sample Engagement Questions

Last Updated June 8, 2026

## For the Contextualized Housing Need

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### Knowledge-holders: Community Members of Needed Housing

#### *Analysis of Past Discriminatory Actions – Part A*

- Do you have knowledge or stories about previous residents of your neighborhood that were removed or excluded and no longer live there? If so, are you willing to share?
- Were your relatives removed or excluded from this community in the past, or removed or excluded from elsewhere at which time they came to this community?
- Do you know of people who have tried to live in your community but were unable to gain access to it, whether for affordability reasons, because of residency restrictions, as a result of cultural exclusion and unwelcome, or for any other reason?
- Have you witnessed or heard of any major changes to the locations infrastructure (roads, highways, water or sewage treatment plants, solar fields, etc.) or institutions (hospitals, schools, convention centers, etc.) that have displaced and even stolen wealth and place from community members?

#### *Affordability Analysis*

- Does the cost of your housing feel manageable month to month?
- Have you had to make trade-offs (like transportation, childcare, food, healthcare, etc.) to cover housing costs?
- How has the cost of housing affected your ability to save money or plan for the future?

#### *Analysis of Fair Housing Choice*

### Housing Tenure and Wealth-Building Opportunities

- Do you live in the tenure type that you prefer? Think typical rental, typical ownership, or ownership or membership in a cooperative or community land trust

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- If not, what is/are the barrier or barriers that is/are keeping you from living in the tenure of your choosing?
    - How would living in housing of the tenure of your choosing better meet your needs?
  - Do you know how many generations back, if any, in your lineage your family owned their own home?
    - What are your stories about whether your family has or hasn't owned your own home?
  - Have you experienced intergenerational wealth transfer related to wealth built from owning a home/s?
    - Whether yes or no, can you share more about how this has or hasn't impacted your life?
  - Is there anything else you would like to share about this topic, how it affects you, your needs, or any other comments or thoughts?

### **Permanent Housing to Resolve Homelessness**

- Are you or have you ever been homeless?
  - If so, what kind of housing do you need or would you have needed to *prevent* becoming homeless? In other words, what housing need is going or went unmet for you? Think location, cost, size, etc.
- If you are or have been homeless, what specific housing needs come with the transition to permanent housing?
- If you have been homeless and are no longer homeless, were you able to secure housing that met all of your needs?
  - If so, how easy or challenging was that?
  - If not, which needs went unmet in the housing that you ended up in?

### **Accessible and Adaptable Housing**

- Do you or anyone in your household need adaptable or accessible housing?
  - Are you currently in accessible housing that meets your household's needs? This includes that the housing is in the location that best suits your household and is affordable to you, among other needs
    - Have you ever had trouble in the past finding housing that meets your household's needs? If so, please explain what issues you hit. Think affordability, location, home size, etc.

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- If your household does not currently need accessible housing, do you think you would be able to find it or pay to retrofit your current housing if someone in your home were to become disabled?
  - Do you caretake for someone who needs adaptable or accessible housing?
    - If so, do they have the level of accessibility they need in their home?

### **Access to Community Assets and Mitigation of Exposure to Harms**

- Have there been any environmental hazard issues that affected your neighborhood in particular, more so or rather than the community as a whole? Think toxin events, higher temperatures in the summer, flooding, etc.
  - If so, what is/was your neighborhood and what issues occurred?
- Contrastingly, do you hear about environmental hazard issues in other parts of town and not your own?
  - If so, what is your neighborhood and where have you heard of issues occurring?
- Would you prefer to live in a different neighborhood specifically because it would be easier to get to the amenities you need? Or do you feel satisfied with your ability to get your and your household's needs met? Think grocery store, doctor, school, library, work, community center or church, park, etc.
  - If the former, what neighborhood is that and what is keeping you from living there?
  - If the latter, what neighborhood is that and what are some of the amenities that you particularly appreciate having easy access to?
- Would you prefer to live in a different neighborhood because it seems like it is healthier or has fewer issues occurring in it?
  - If so, what neighborhood is that and what is keeping you from living there?

### **Housing Stability, Anti-Displacement, and Displacement Mitigation**

- Do you live in the same neighborhood where you grew up?
  - If not, did you leave where you grew up voluntarily? If not, why did you leave?
  - If so, has it been challenging or easy for you to remain? Why?
- Have you ever been involuntarily displaced from your home? Think eviction, natural disaster without recovery support, increase in housing costs (rents, property taxes and insurance, etc.) that you could not keep up with, cost of living increases for nearby services, survival of domestic violence

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- If so, what caused the displacement?
    - Were you able to rehouse in the same neighborhood, or did you have to leave that immediate community to find new housing?
    - Did you hear of any supports that could have helped you stay in your home?
      - If so, were you able to access them? Why or why not?
    - Are there particular supports that you wished were available but were not? Or issues that could be solved to remove the pressure for displacement that you experienced?
  - If not, what do you attribute your housing stability to?
  - Have you ever faced involuntary displacement from your home but ultimately been able to stay?
    - If so, what program, support, or change made it possible for you to stay?
  - Are you currently facing the threat of displacement? If so, what is the cause or potential cause?
  - If you have been displaced to or from somewhere in our community, where did you get displaced from and where did you find new housing?

### **Disrupting and Addressing Patterns of Segregation and their Correlation with Concentrated Areas of Affluence and Poverty**

- What neighborhood do you live in?
- Do you live in a neighborhood that you identify as being mono-income? In other words, do you have neighbors of varying incomes, or do most households in your neighborhood have similar income levels?
  - If similar, do you perceive your neighborhood to be higher income or lower income?
- Are there neighborhoods other than your own in the community that you know as being low income or high income? Which are those?
- Of any neighborhoods that you see as generally higher income or lower income, have you noticed any patterns of segregation by any of the protected classes? In other words, are higher income neighborhoods dominated by particular racial groups or levels of ability or disability? What about lower income neighborhoods?
  - If so, which neighborhoods do you see as pairing both income concentration and protected class segregation?

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- Do you currently feel segregated out of a particular neighborhood with a nexus of a protected class identity and income? If so, which?
  - Do you wish your neighborhood were more diverse? If so, what kinds of diversity do you notice are missing?

## **For the Housing Production Strategy**

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### **Knowledge-holders: Producers of Needed Housing to support the selection of actions**

- Which actions would meaningfully support permitting, financing, or overcoming construction barriers for your housing projects?
- What are the top regulatory or process barriers currently slowing production that the local government can directly address?
- Which actions seem most workable in practice? Which seems the least workable, and why?
- Which actions oriented to financial incentives (e.g., fee reductions, SDC deferrals, land disposition, etc.) would significantly increase your willingness to build?
- Are there actions that local governments can take to increase development feasibility specifically of affordable housing and other needed housing types?
- Which actions do you believe will most improve affordable housing access (generally serving households at or under 80% of the area median income) for the groups you serve?
- Do any of the actions raise concerns about potential displacement or do not affirmatively furthering fair housing choice for the groups you serve?
- What kinds of mitigating measures would strengthen benefits and minimize harm for the community groups you serve?
- What kinds of mitigating measures would strengthen benefits and minimize harm for communities of color, low-income communities, individuals with disabilities, or tribal communities?
- Of any of the actions you encourage the local government to take, are there specific implementation considerations that you think are important, like potential pitfalls to avoid or critical components that if overlooked would make the action ineffective or even pose a new obstacle?