

Housing is a vital component of Washington DC's inclusive growth, with housing choice and affordability providing residents stability and opportunity. The District has made a commitment to robust housing policies, programs and tools that allow residents to benefit from the jobs and prosperity that come with growth.

Despite these significant investments, affordable housing production is not keeping up with residents' needs. Growth has also created housing pressures and rising costs that are impacting residents citywide. Residents on average are paying a greater share of their income on rental housing than before, an effect that disproportionately impacts low-income residents. In addition, a legacy of racially discriminatory and exclusionary land use policies created and perpetuated an inequitable distribution of affordable housing across the District, which limits where residents can choose to live today.

Due to these challenges, Mayor Bowser issued a Mayor's Order in May 2019 that set bold goals for her second term to expand housing production to:

- Achieve 36,000 new housing units by 2025;
- Add 12,000 dedicated affordable units serving a range of low-income residents earning less than 80 percent of the District's Median Family Income (MFI);
- Develop affordable housing goals for each of the Comprehensive Plan's Planning Areas to achieve a minimum of 15 percent affordable units within each Planning Area by 2050.

The DC Office of Planning (OP) and the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) launched the interagency Housing Framework for Equity and Growth initiative to examine the factors and policies affecting housing production, affordability and location. The first deliverable was the Housing Equity Report, which analyzed the current distribution of affordable housing and set area specific goals to deliver 12,000 affordable housing units across all Planning Areas by 2025.

The next deliverable of the Housing Framework for Equity and Growth will identify and evaluate opportunities, challenges and barriers to accelerating production, including market supply and demand, public policy and regulations, and community impacts and dynamics. The initiative will also look at the experiences and needs of specific populations such as older adults and families, and how new approaches for design and development can meet a range of household needs across the city.

Addressing the District's housing challenges requires a citywide approach and a commitment from each Planning Area to produce and preserve affordable housing. Together we can advance our collective vision of the District as an equitable and inclusive city where all residents can access healthy, safe, and affordable housing in every neighborhood for generations to come.

Learn more about the Housing Framework for Equity and Growth.
Visit us at housing.dc.gov or email us at housingdc@dc.gov

Figure 1. Estimated Current Distribution of Dedicated Affordable Units

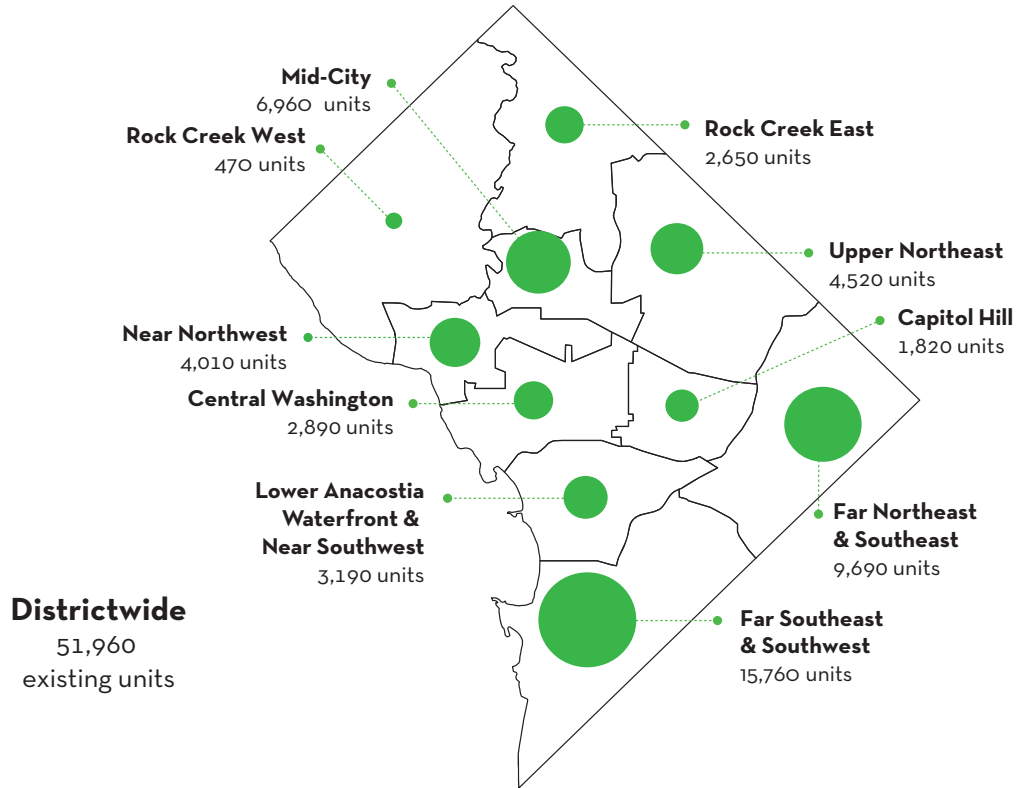


Figure 2. 2025 Dedicated Affordable Housing Production Goals

