

Incorporating Public Comments: Minnesota Housing

In spring 2026, the Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO), in partnership with the Dendros Group, Inclusion Consultants, and state staff, held a public comment period. This included:

- Virtual meetings
- An online survey in multiple languages
- Individual interviews
- Submissions from organizations
- Email comments

This document includes themes from all public comments. Agency teams were asked to address how feedback was incorporated into their goals and strategies in the Olmstead Plan.

For more information about this feedback, please review the housing and transition public comment summary report.

Housing Goal 1

Housing Goal 1: People with disabilities will have access to more accessible housing and housing with deeply affordable rents paired with supportive services

The Minnesota Housing agency team updated Housing Goal 1 based off feedback received. Changes include:

- Clearer communications strategies to raise visibility of accessibility and universal design
- Aligning funding requests with need to inform Legislature of scale
- When the agency is developing tenant selection plans and training for providers, it will include content that considers inclusivity and trauma-informed practices

Housing Goal 2

Housing Goal 2: More people with disabilities will receive affordable financing for accessibility updates to their homes

The agency team updated Housing Goal 2 based off feedback received. Changes include:

- More explicitly stated that people with lived experience will be included in program development and continuous improvement.
- Acknowledged limitations of current levels of funding and gaps in eligibility for loan programs.
- Clarified that the source of data for data development is information provided by borrowers and loan officers.

Housing Data Goal 2

Housing Data Goal 2: More people with disabilities will have safe, accessible, affordable housing of their choice

The Minnesota Housing agency team updated this goal based off feedback. Changes made include:

- Added language to prioritize face-to-face interaction with people when asking about their experience with their housing.
- Added specific measures on choice, affordability, and safety.
- Will use disaggregated data where possible to identify disparities, including those related to identity.

Some feedback was not included. The actions not addressed in goals or strategies include:

- Feedback from the public comment period will be included in the information that is considered when the agencies develop the new measurements related to this goal.
- The measurements in this goal will inform future funding requests by helping the state better understand housing needs.

Transition Goal 4

Transition Goal 4: More people with disabilities will move from segregated settings to integrated housing of their choice, where they sign a lease and receive rent support

The agency team updated this goal using feedback. Changes include:

- Clarified that Transition Goal 4 and Housing Data Goal 2 are linked. Recognizing that Transition Goal 4 does not provide strong measurement of individual choice, the state is developing better measurements and tools to track choice and whether housing meets personal preferences.
- Added a strategy related to agency collaboration to improve access to housing and resolve barriers between systems.

General feedback themes for all Minnesota Housing goals

These are general themes from feedback about the above goals.

Feedback theme: Accessibility

Themes included universal design, access beyond physical accessibility, and enforcement of standards. The Minnesota Housing agency team included this feedback in their goals. They write:

- Minnesota Housing will advocate for policy changes at the Legislature and update internal policies as needed to make home improvement lending programs better meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- We are adding references to assistive technology and waiver funding that can support greater independence and choice of where to live.
- In Transition Goal 4, a strategy was added for agencies to work together to resolve barriers to access and make programs work better for individuals to improve their housing outcomes.
- When the agency is developing tenant selection plans and training for providers, it will include content that considers inclusivity and trauma-informed practices
- Added a strategy to regularly review design requirements relating to accessibility.

Some actions were not addressed in goals or strategies:

- Our team met with staff architects to understand where the agency's building standards meet or exceed state requirements. Minnesota Housing has high standards for indoor air quality and soundproofing, and requires a higher number of accessible units than state building code.
- Beyond the requirements that are conditions of receiving funding for housing development, Minnesota Housing does not enforce building code or residential licensing.

Feedback theme: Affordability

Themes included deep need for affordable housing and the waivers that can support this. The Minnesota Housing agency team made some changes based off this feedback.

- In Data Goal 2, measuring people who report that affordability is a barrier to housing
- Modified the strategies related to requesting increased funding for housing to more align with the level of need
- In Housing Goal 2, acknowledge that funding levels are not high enough for home improvement, and there are gaps in eligibility for people who are moderate income.

They did not address all feedback. Actions not addressed in goals or strategies:

- State agencies do not have control over how much funding is appropriated by state and federal government.

Feedback theme: Safe housing is a major concern and includes safety in housing location, cleanliness, accessibility, etc.

The agency team updated their goals using this feedback. Changes include:

- In Data Goal 2, measuring people who report safety is a barrier to housing
- When the agency is developing tenant selection plans and training for providers, it will include content that considers inclusivity and trauma-informed practices

Feedback theme: People with disabilities should get to choose where they live, and have many options to choose from

The agency team updated their goals using this feedback. They write:

- In Data Goal 2, measuring the number of people who report they are satisfied that their housing meets their personal preferences.
- Modified the strategies related to requesting increasing funding for housing to connect requests for funding to the level of need

Feedback theme: Intersectionality

Community members said the state must address disparities based on other identities held by people with disabilities. These identities can include race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, language, and more.

The Minnesota Housing agency team updated their goals using this feedback. Updates include:

- In Housing Data Goal 2, will use disaggregated data where possible to consider multiple aspects of identity and identify and address potential disparities.
- When the agency is developing tenant selection plans and training for providers, it will include content that considers inclusivity and trauma-informed practices