

What did we hear?

Economic development - While it's been an activity under the goal of Neighborhood Revitalization and the City has supported limited economic development projects such as Step Up, the community would like to see more ED projects.

Renter education - Landlords and tenant advocates voiced concerns about renter education. Landlords are concerned that tenants are unaware of their responsibilities such as how to care for a property or that tenants may not know when to report a problem to them before it becomes a larger repair. Tenant advocates are concerned that renters are unaware of or afraid to assert their rights. They may be unsure when or how to report problems to their landlords or the city. Renters of all backgrounds have stories of landlords who have responded to a tenant reporting problems to the city with higher rent, threats of eviction, etc. despite retaliation being illegal. This has led to the most vulnerable renters often not reporting problems for fear of displacement.

Elderly housing - Affordable, accessible housing for the elderly has repeatedly come up as a need. Many elderly people would like to be able to stay in the neighborhoods that they currently live in but may be reaching a point where living on their own may become unaffordable, isolating, or unsafe. Elderly individuals may no longer be able to maintain their property without significant assistance or the home that they raised their families in may now be too big or inaccessible for them as they age.

Accessible housing and transportation for those with disabilities - For individuals with disabilities and their families, there is a shortage of affordable, accessible housing. The City has supported a barrier removal program for many years, it has not had the capacity to make significant progress on this problem. The MOBY system is helpful for transportation, but it is tied very closely to existing bus routes, greatly limiting where those who rely on MOBY can live, particularly west of 72nd Street.

Supportive housing - Supportive housing or community centers. Supportive housing is utilized in the homeless community, but would be beneficial to public housing residents, refugees, disabled individuals, the Native American community, and the elderly. Providing services in existing apartment buildings or community centers on a regular basis would be a start to filling this need.

Culturally appropriate outreach and engagement - The way that the city engages residents is not always the best to reach certain populations. Coming to where groups gather rather than expecting them to come to the city. Visiting the Yates Community Center to reach refugee families, hosting a table at the Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow, the Multicultural Senior Center in South Omaha, or visiting churches in North Omaha, the City will better serve the community if it spends more time in the community.

