



July 28, 2025

To: City of Olympia Mayor and City Council
Cc: Olympia Planning Commission

Honorable Mayor Payne and City of Olympia Councilmembers,

As part of the Olympia 2045 update of the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council has provided the Social Justice and Equity Commission with an opportunity to weigh in on the draft chapters to offer equity-related recommendations. This letter is intended to share with you the Commission's conversation regarding the Housing chapter, on which the Commission received a briefing at our May 19, 2025, meeting.

The Commission discussed the Housing chapter and accompanying Housing Displacement Analysis with Community Planning and Economic Development staff and had the opportunity to ask questions related to how equity is addressed in the chapter and how it was considered during its development. The Commission's discussion centered around the following topic:

- Accessibility in housing, especially retrofitting older homes and ensuring that multi-family housing is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar laws. The Housing Chapter, as written at the time of the SJE's review, lacked language supporting physical accessibility.
- Commissioners support the amendments that address accessibility. Language to consider should emphasize structural rehabilitation, which may include a policy to direct Community Development Block Grant funds to retrofit existing housing stock tied to low-income affordability requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to review goals and policies within the Housing chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, provide feedback on the updated process, and learn how this work promotes equitable growth and development in our community.

Best Regards,

Robin Rosen-Evans, Chair
Social Justice & Equity Commission
RR:cs