

# CDG SUPPORTS HOUSING TASK FORCE AND INCREASE IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LA GRANGE

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For Immediate Release



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## VISION

Our vision is a diverse, inclusive, and caring community.

## MISSION

We advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in government, civic and cultural life so that everyone in our community is represented and heard. We seek to provide opportunities for learning and growing together.

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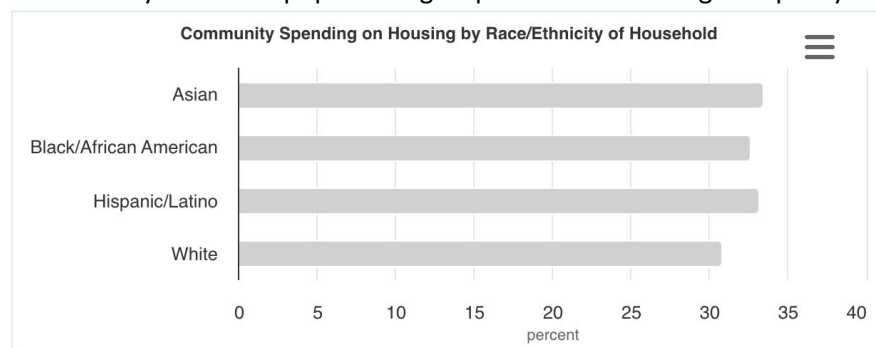
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Affordable housing is essential to sustaining a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community. CDG shares concerns articulated by community members in the *2024 La Grange Forward Comprehensive Plan* regarding affordability and supports the proposal of a Housing Task Force to assess housing needs in the Village. A Housing Task Force could explore expanding the diversity of housing stock and other strategies to help make housing more affordable. A housing assessment could determine the needs of various populations such as seniors, empty nesters, young professionals, new families, and those who work in the Village. Creation of a Housing Task Force would be a first step in determining what could be accomplished to improve identified deficiencies.

Expanding affordable housing opportunities in La Grange strengthens diversity, broadens inclusion, and ensures that people of varied backgrounds, incomes, and life stages can live and thrive here. Access to stable housing is closely tied to overall community well-being, supporting improved health outcomes, economic mobility, and social cohesion. Data from the [Community Memorial Foundation's Regional Health and Human Services Housing Dashboard](#) further highlights the need for action: all racial subgroups within the 60525 zip code spend more than the recommended 30% of their income on housing. The data shows that Black, Asian, and Hispanic residents spend a slightly greater share of their income on housing than white residents—an average of 33.1 percent compared to 30.8 percent. Overall, this illustrates that housing affordability affects all population groups and merits thoughtful policy attention.



According to the study [Healthy People 2030](#), “Spending a high percentage of household income on housing can create financial hardship, especially for households with limited incomes. High housing cost burden can make it hard to afford other expenses for health care, food, transportation and savings. This is linked to increased stress, mental health problems, and increased risk of disease.”

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Limited access to affordable housing in La Grange affects many individuals and families who contribute meaningfully to the vitality of our community and those who may not be able to afford to live here currently. These include:

- Public servants who support the daily life and safety of our community, including teachers, police officers, firefighters, clergy, and village staff, and who would welcome the opportunity to live in the community they serve.
- Senior citizens who wish to remain in La Grange near their families, friends, and lifelong support networks.
- People who work in La Grange such as restaurant staff, retail employees, and small business owners who would benefit from living closer to their workplaces.
- Adult children who grew up in La Grange and hope to return to raise their own families near their parents and extended family.
- People of color who, along with their families, may have longstanding ties to the community but historically faced barriers to homeownership that limited opportunities to build generational wealth.
- Individuals with disabilities, including adult children of current residents, who may benefit from supportive housing or group living arrangements that allow them to live with independence and dignity.

Our community is strengthened by residents and families of diverse religious, racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Children benefit from growing up and attending school with peers from varied experiences and perspectives, preparing them to live and work in an increasingly interconnected world. A more inclusive housing landscape also supports the local economy. Residents who live here are more likely to spend their time and money locally, strengthening businesses and civic life. Thoughtful increases in housing density can also promote environmental sustainability by supporting walkability and reducing commuting distances.

For these reasons, CDG supports policies that encourage a wider range of housing types and price points, sometimes called "[missing middle housing.](#)" Potential approaches could include:

- **Inclusionary zoning**, requiring a portion of units in new or redeveloped multi-family housing to be set aside as affordable.
- **Adjusted zoning regulations** that allow four- and five-story residential buildings near transit with more flexible parking requirements.
- **Expanding opportunities for three-and-four-unit housing**, especially in areas with larger lots where the housing can blend in with existing single-family dwellings.
- **Residential parking programs** to allow residents of multi-family housing to legally park on neighborhood streets overnight.
- **Legalization of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** so family members can live independently in units above garages or in small, detached dwellings.

These examples represent only a starting point. A housing task force could explore additional solutions by studying successful approaches in peer communities.

CDG supports the Village Trustees' initiative to create a Housing Task Force in La Grange to explore housing needs and solutions. We believe that this would be an important first step to explicitly acknowledge this issue and outline strategies to ensure that housing affordability remains part of La Grange's future.

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