#### OLMSTED COUNTY MINNESOTA

# Greater Minnesota Housing for Older Adults

Legislative Task Force on Aging

January 9, 2024

# Olmsted County's path forward

#### Maxfield Housing Study

- Maxfield Housing Study updated in late 2020
- Provides housing targets for the next decade
- Over 375 pages of data, data, and more data (for those of you who like that kind of stuff)
- Provides the background for today's information

Prepared for: Olmsted County Rochester, MN

2020

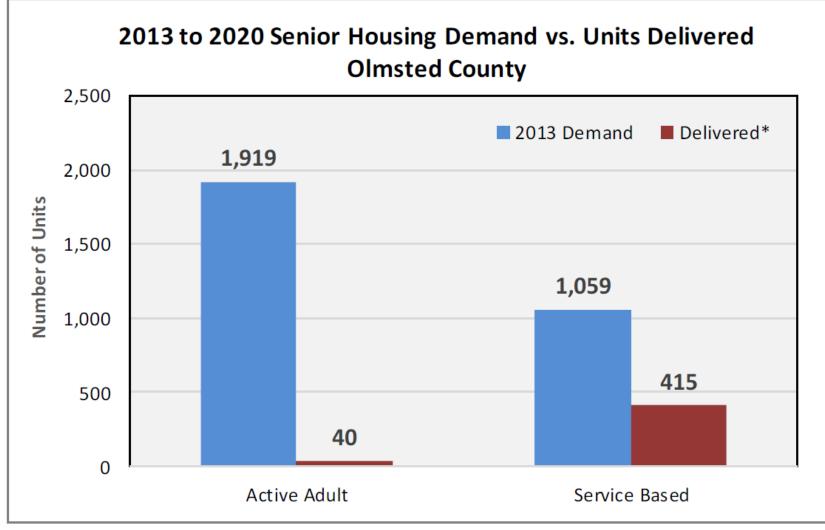
Maxfield Research & Consulting 7575 Golden Valley Road Suite 385 Golden Valley, MN 55427

Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis for

Olmsted County, Minnesota

612.338.0012 www.maxfieldresearch.com

#### Sub-Par Senior Housing Production



\* Delivered is units built from 2013 to 2019

Olmsted County Housing Priorities

- Create homeownership opportunities
- Increase homeownership for People
  of Color
- Create housing for people at 50% AMI or less
- Enhance housing options for seniors
- Preserve our affordable housing stock

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# Addressing senior housing needs

## Community co-design



SENIOR HOUSING COMMUNITY CO-DESIGN PROJECT REPORT









# Raise awareness of housing options

It's not a binary choice. "No warehouses for old people"—Codesign Participant

# Create additional Senior Housing Options







## Role of transportation



#### **Program Simplification**

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# Statewide resources and Legislative investment opportunities

# State housing aging resources

- Tax policies
- Housing rehab programs
- New home construction
- Rental Assistance
- Local Housing Support



# Tax policies

- Statewide Resources
  - Homestead Exemption
  - Senior Property Tax Deferral Program

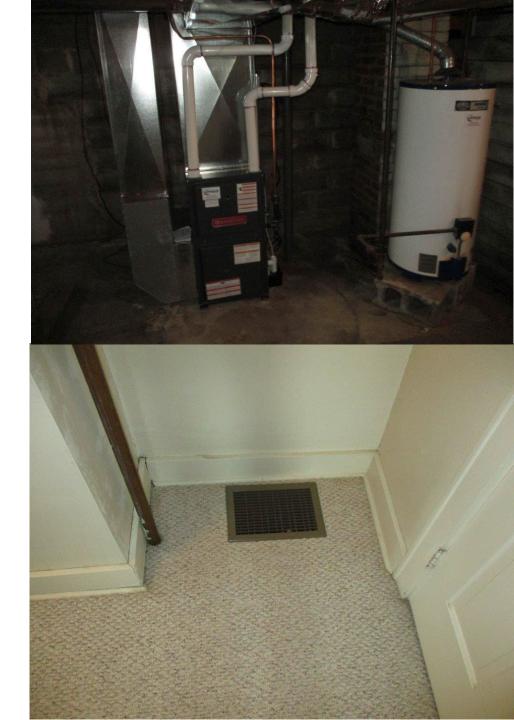


# Housing Rehab Programs

- Olmsted County Example
  - \$5,000 accessibility (Grant)
  - \$25,000 rehab loan program (2% interest)
  - No payments until home is sold
- Program benefits
  - Allow for home updates
  - Financially sustainable program (revolving funds)
- Limited state funds available for home rehab funding
  - <u>Targeted at very low-income homeowners</u>
  - Housing rehab funding should be enhanced across MN

# Success story

- Providing a community leadership role
  - Elderly women lives alone
  - Dover
  - Lived in home for 30 years
  - Owns her home
  - Wants to stay in her home as long as possible
- Improvements made
  - New furnace (96% efficient & safer system then old unit)
  - Save 50% heating cost
  - Didn't have heat in 2<sup>nd</sup> level of home where her bedroom is located
  - Upgraded electrical- fixed electrical safety issues in basement



## Rental Assistance

- Implementation of statewide rental assistance program
  - Operates like the Housing Choice Voucher Program
  - Rules are still under development
- Housing Support Program modification
  - Housing & other assistance for people with a disabling condition or over age 65
  - New language effective 10/1/24 will reduce "rent" to 30% of unearned income
  - <u>This has the potential to provide significant assistance to our very</u> <u>low-income seniors</u>

# New housing construction

#### Multifamily housing

- Senior housing not prioritized in the state's Qualified Allocation Plan
- Housing Infrastructure bonds criteria modified to include senior housing
- Single Family housing
  - Find ways to use capital to test new housing styles and products
  - Public/Private Partnerships
    - Can we use them to meet the changing housing needs of our aging population?



# Local housing support

- State flexible funds to assist cities/counties with housing needs
  - Local Homeless Prevention Aid
  - Statewide Affordable Housing Aid
- Maximize use of these funds
  - Ask your community to focus these investments to assist with aging in place
- Explore a new direct fund to counties to assist people aging in place

## More information on state resources

- Local Homeless Prevention Aid (direct funding to counties to assist families facing homelessness)
  - Local Homeless Prevention Aid | Minnesota Department of Revenue (state.mn.us)
- Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (direct aid to counites to create housing)
  - <u>Statewide Affordable Housing Aid | Minnesota Department of Revenue</u>
- Statewide Rental Assistance (local housing voucher program)
- Housing Support (housing for elderly and people with disabilities)
  - Housing programs and services / Minnesota Department of Human Services (mn.gov)

# Additional Olmsted County Resources

- Olmsted County Senior Housing Co-Design
  - <u>Coalition for Rochester Area Housing Report News Blog Posts -</u> Builders Association Newsletter | Rochester Area Builders
- Olmsted County Housing Rehab Program
  - Housing Rehabilitation Programs | Olmsted County, MN

#### Questions or Comments? Thank You

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