Looking at the Year Ahead: Creating a Clear, Inclusive and Productive CASA Process

6 Wins for Social Equity Network

Establishing a clear and inclusive process at the beginning of any new committee is vital to creating a space where committee and community members feel comfortable and motivated to contribute, leading to a better team environment, more collaborative communication, greater sharing of ideas, and improved results.

The 6 Wins for Social Equity Network urges CASA to adopt the following components in the CASA process to create greater clarity, ensure community participation and help guide the year ahead:

1. **Adopt Common Principles to Guide Grand Bargain Solutions**: Discuss and develop common values and principles that all policy solutions must meet for inclusion in the Grand Bargain.

2. **Adopt Measurable Goals for Each “P”**: Research indicates that setting ambitious, collective goals early on improves team efficiency, communication and motivation, resulting in improved outcomes. By establishing big picture goals, CASA can frame the scope of the problem, establish ambitious collective objectives, and start to engage diverse stakeholders towards solutions. We urge CASA to adopt the following three goals to guide solutions around protection, preservation and production:
   - **Protection**: Protect more than 450,000 low-income renter households at risk of displacement by adopting incentives and requirements and generating $400 million/year.
   - **Preservation**: Take 25,500 homes occupied by and affordable to low-income renters off the speculative market and preserve over 11,100 expiring deed-restricted units by adopting incentives and requirements and generating $500 million/year for 10 years.
   - **Production**: Meet the region’s need for 13,000 new affordable homes per year by adopting incentives and requirements and closing the $1.4 billion yearly housing gap.

3. **Community Engagement**: Partner with community-based organizations to convene four sub-regional forums on housing and displacement in the North Bay, East Bay, South Bay and Peninsula focused on outreach to impacted community members. Invite impacted community members to share their stories and engage in developing CASA solutions. Require all Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee members to attend at least one forum. These forums should be hosted by communities organizations with resources provided by MTC to support these efforts.

4. **Meeting Schedule & Agendas**: Develop a schedule of topics for Technical and Steering Committee meetings. Share draft meeting agendas with committee members and community-based organizations two weeks before each Technical Committee meeting and one month before each Steering Committee meeting.

5. **Dedicated Study Sessions**: Dedicate CASA committee meetings to workshop funding strategies and policies for each of the 3 Ps, starting with protection.

6. **Experts**: Invite experts to speak to the committees and the work groups on data, the scope of the problem, and policy strategies for each of the 3 Ps.

7. **Accessible Work Groups**: Make the Protection, Preservation, and Production Work Groups open for public participation and membership to take advantage of local expertise and lead with solutions that address community needs.

The 6 Wins for Social Equity Network is a regional coalition of over 20 organizations working to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in the Bay Area. To learn more and to get involved, please contact Lynsey Gaudioso at Public Advocates (lgaudioso@publicadvocates.org) or Mashael Majid at Urban Habitat (mashael@urbanhabitat.org).