

Acton 2020 Recommended Implementation Program

GOAL 5: Support Inclusion and Diversity

Objective 5.1: Support all ages

Support seniors in providing easier access to housing, transportation, and connecting with the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of housing that is appropriate to seniors (e.g. affordable and smaller units, located within walking distance of goods and services) (See also Objective 1.4) 	Planning, PIBd/BoS (in development review), ACHC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide transportation options for seniors. 	CoA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of a new Community Center with enough dedicated space and facilities for seniors to meet future needs. 	New Community Ctr Committee, CoA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resources to promote health, fitness/wellness (including strategic infrastructure like sidewalks providing access to educational resources/classes) (See Objective 3.1 and 4.2.) 	(See Objective 3.1 and 4.2.)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide inter-generational opportunities for interaction and learning in a new Community Center and through community programs and volunteer activities. 	New Community Ctr Committee, CoA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct outreach to seniors (including newly arrived seniors who may speak languages other than English). 	CoA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer more paid-part time positions at Town Hall and tax exemptions to seniors. 	BoS	
Integrate teens in our community by providing services, easier mobility, activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more activities for teenagers that are accessible without an automobile. (See also Objective 3.2) 	Recreation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a club (e.g. like Danny's Place) for older kids, another park, or other gathering place for teens, potentially at a new Community Center. 	New Community Ctr Committee, Recreation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend sidewalks and increase access to public transportation to help teens get around. 	(See Objectives 3.1 and 3.2)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct outreach to youth, listen and take seriously their input regarding their needs. 	?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve youth in town governance by providing teen part time work and volunteer opportunities in town services including creating a “student representative” to town government. Explore possibilities for providing school and/or community service credit for these activities. 	BoS, Schools	
Objective 5.2: Support households of all income levels.			
Develop a comprehensive and proactive affordable housing strategy that supports the provision of a wide range of housing types including for people of limited means, and also allows Acton to opt out of the state 40B regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentives for the development of housing that is “affordable¹” (meeting state standards) and/or simply “inexpensive” (within the means of people and families with lower incomes) at small scattered sites especially in proximity of village centers. 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the development of new housing which is within the means of empty nesters, town staff, and young families (ensuring that the design of the housing is in keeping with Town character). 	(See Objective 1.4)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to continue and expand the conversion of existing inexpensive housing units to affordable units through purchase of deed restrictions. 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and expand the ability of residents who wish to subdivide their homes (and property) for economical housing (e.g., “in-law apartments”) by moving forward the dates of housing that qualifies under the Zoning Bylaw and providing regulations that permit subdivision of a single residential lot for affordable housing purposes. 	Planning, PIBd, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Housing Production Plan and submit it to the MA Dept of Housing and Community Development for approval. This plan should strive to make rental and owner housing available at prices that Acton families of lower income can afford and at the same time provide a means to meet the 10% state goal that frees Acton from 40B development. 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Objective 1.4 regarding strategies to address 40B. 		

Provide social support and economic opportunities for residents of lower income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase volunteer and community connections by working with the school system and the Town Community Services Coordinator to identify those in need and match them with volunteers and agencies. 	Community Services Coordinator, Schools, Volunteer Coordinating Cmte	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support agencies working to serve the needs of the Town's low income residents. 	Community Services Coordinator	
Objective 5.3: Embrace cultural diversity.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and provide Town space for celebration and cultural activities. 	Municipal Facilities, Libraries, Recreation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide welcome guides to new residents which include contact people, welcome committee, reference guide to existing resources (such as ESL instruction), etc. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to public transportation. 	(See Objective 3.2)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the dialogue between multi-cultural groups by providing easily accessible contact information for various ethnic and cultural communities (including Brazilian, Chinese, Latino, Russian, and Indian communities). 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide recognition of holidays in the schools. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire and provide multi-lingual staff and materials at Town Hall and Memorial Library 	Memorial Library, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and evaluate the possibility of providing the opportunity to non-citizen residents of Acton to vote on town-wide issues (such as overrides, etc.) 	BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the schools to include Indian languages and Portuguese and Russian as foreign language options as well as the current Chinese language offerings. 	Schools	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the telling of Acton's history to include a wider time period and events including Native American history as well as European history of the town, for example, the 'Trail Through Time' in North Acton. 	AHC, ABCC	
Objective 5.4: Support citizens with disabilities in participating fully in the life of the community			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply Universal Design principles in new Town facilities and development guidelines and review to provide physical access 	Planning, Engineering, Municipal Facilities, Comm	

	benefits to all.	on Disabilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more transportation options for the disabled community by ensuring that shuttle vehicles are wheelchair accessible and drivers are properly trained; (this anADA requirement for fixed route service). (See also Objective 3,2) 	Comm on Disabilities, TAC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support job training and career counseling opportunities for disabled individuals. 	Comm on Disabilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include units for people with disabilities in both affordable and market housing through development guidelines and review. 	See Objectives 1.4 and 1.5	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete accessibility improvements for the remaining town buildings that need additional improvements to fully accommodate people with disabilities. 	Municipal Facilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the potential of making selected open space paths wheelchair accessible. 	(See Objective 3.1)	

CI- Capital Investment, P – Planning, M – Management, R – Regulatory, E - Encouragement

¹ “Affordable” housing is defined by the MA Dept of Housing and Community Development in terms of its cost and deed restrictions that maintain affordable cost over time. This definition is used by MGL Chapter 40B, which allows developers to override local zoning if a minimum proportion of units meet the state affordability requirements.