Promoting interagency engagement and collaboration in the development of a local housing strategy overview

In most communities, primary responsibility for developing a local housing strategy lies with the department or agency that implements housing programs and policies (often the department of housing or community development).

Housing department staff often have the greatest knowledge of housing challenges in their community, as well as insights and experience to inform decisions about which approaches might work best to address those challenges. For a local housing strategy to have the greatest impact, however, housing department staff should not work in isolation. In addition to a robust public engagement process, cities, towns, and counties that are in the process of developing or updating a local housing strategy should create ongoing opportunities for interagency engagement and collaboration, involving senior leadership in the office of the mayor or county executive and representatives from all of the departments and agencies that make housing-related policy decisions. Engaging these agency partners and government stakeholders early in the process can strengthen the policy recommendations included in the strategy and build support for their implementation.