



Late Backup

6/27/13

ADAPT Comments on the Downtown Plan June 2013

Many people with disabilities have extremely limited incomes. A person who receives SSI income from Social Security is getting \$710 per month or \$8,520 per year. The waiting list for Section 8 is currently 4 to 5 years long and is closed -- so no one can get on it until it is opened up again. Public housing is also very limited compared to the need, and the waiting list is over a year. Personal attendants (who help people with disabilities and seniors with personal care and home health care) make about \$13,000 per year if they are lucky. Housing needs to be targeted to rents people can afford. The City of Austin should encourage new projects that serve any or all persons at or below 30% MFI -- not just supportive housing. One size does not fit all in affordable housing programs.

It is for this reason ADAPT is concerned about the lack of deeply subsidized affordable housing in the downtown area to serve very low income people. We support housing for homeless Austinites downtown but feel that more needs to be done to serve the low income groups mentioned above. Fee-in-lieu funds should target households at or below 30% MFI, including people with disabilities, seniors and families with children. The plan approved by the City Council should clarify that any workforce housing corporation set up by the city will help low-income workers and people with disabilities. The plan must include an emphasis and priority on helping people below 30% of the median income.

Fee-in-lieu funds should be used to support affordable housing in the Central Business District and Planning Areas of which some or all fall within two miles of Congress and 6th Street.

Properties that choose to provide on-site affordable housing need to commit to accepting Section 8 vouchers, as consistent with City policy, with the sole exception being programs specifically designed to serve homeless people without vouchers.

The in lieu fees should be higher so that some affordable units actually get included in downtown Austin.