



CITY OF COVINA

2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT



City Council Resolution CC 2022-109

With technical revisions December 2022,
June 2023 and December 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CITY COUNCIL

Patricia Cortez, Councilmember
Walter Allen, III, Mayor
John King, Mayor Pro Tem
Victor Linares, Councilmember
Hector Delgado, Councilmember

PLANNING COMMISSION

Susan Zermeno, Chair
Dan McMeekin, Vice Chair
John Connors
Rosie Richardson
Bryan Rodriguez

CITY STAFF

Chris Marcarello, City Manager
Brian Lee, AICP, Director of Community Development

CONSULTANT ASSISTANCE

Nancy Fong, AICP
JHD Planning, LLC

Contents

I.	Executive Summary.....	I-1
II.	Introduction.....	II-1
	A. Community Context.....	II-1
	B. Role of Housing Element.....	II-1
	C. Information Sources.....	II-4
	D. Public Participation	II-4
	E. Relationship to Other General Plan Elements.....	II-5
III.	Housing Needs Assessment.....	III-1
	A. Population Characteristics.....	III-1
	B. Household Characteristics	III-2
	C. Employment Characteristics	III-7
	D. Housing Stock Characteristics	III-8
	E. Special Needs	III-13
	F. Assisted Housing at Risk of Conversion	III-23
	G. Future Housing Needs	III-25
IV.	Resources and Opportunities	IV-26
	A. Land Resources	IV-26
	B. Financial and Administrative Resources	IV-27
	C. Energy Conservation Opportunities	IV-30
V.	Constraints.....	V-1
	A. Governmental Constraints.....	V-1
	B. Non-Governmental Constraints.....	V-24
VI.	Housing Action Plan	VI-1
	A. Goals and Policies	VI-1
	B. Housing Programs	VI-1

Appendix A – Evaluation of the Prior Housing Element

Appendix B – Residential Land Inventory

Appendix C – Public Participation Summary

Appendix D – Fair Housing Assessment

List of Tables

Table III-1	Population Trends 2000-2020 – Covina vs. SCAG Region	III-1
Table III-2	Age Distribution by Gender – Covina.....	III-2
Table III-3	Household Composition – Covina vs. Los Angeles County.....	III-3
Table III-4	Household Tenure – Covina vs. SCAG Region	III-3
Table III-5	Household Tenure by Age – Covina	III-4
Table III-6	Vacant Units by Type – Covina vs. SCAG Region	III-4
Table III-7	Overcrowding by Tenure – Covina vs. SCAG Region	III-5
Table III-8	Extremely-Low-Income Households - Covina	III-6
Table III-9	Overpayment by Income Category – Covina	III-6
Table III-10	Employment by Occupation – Covina vs. SCAG Region	III-7
Table III-11	Employment by Industry – Covina.....	III-8
Table III-12	Housing by Type – Covina vs. SCAG Region.....	III-9
Table III-13	Age of Housing Stock – Covina vs. SCAG Region.....	III-9
Table III-14	Income Categories and Affordable Housing Costs – Los Angeles County	III-11
Table III-15	Median Sales Price for Existing Homes 2000-2018 – Covina vs. SCAG Region.....	III-11
Table III-16	Monthly Owner Costs for Mortgage Holders – Covina vs. SCAG Region.....	III-12
Table III-17	Percentage of Income Spent on Rent – Covina.....	III-12
Table III-18	Rental Expense by Income Category – Covina	III-13
Table III-19	Disabilities by Type – Covina	III-16
Table III-20	Disabilities by Type for Seniors 65+ – Covina.....	III-16
Table III-21	Disabilities by Employment Status – Covina	III-17
Table III-22	Elderly Households by Income and Tenure – Covina.....	III-19
Table III-23	Household Size by Tenure – Covina	III-20
Table III-24	Female Headed Households – Covina	III-21
Table III-25	Households by Poverty Status – Covina	III-21
Table III-26	Agricultural Employment – Covina	III-22
Table III-27	Affordable Housing Developments – Covina	III-24
Table III-28	2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs – Covina.....	III-26
Table V-1	Residential Land Use Categories – Covina General Plan	V-2
Table V-2	Residential Zoning Districts and Development Standards.....	V-2
Table V-3	Allowable Residential Uses by Zoning District.....	V-3
Table V-4	Residential Development Standards – Town Center Specific Plan	V-5
Table V-5	Allowable Residential Uses – Town Center Specific Plan Districts	V-6
Table V-6	Residential Parking Requirements: Outside TCSP	V-15
Table V-7	Residential Parking Requirements: TCSP	V-15
Table V-8	Review Authority and Typical Processing Time for Residential Development	V-20
Table V-9	Planning and Development Fees.....	V-22
Table V-10	Street Standards.....	V-23
Table VI-1	Quantified Objectives 2021-2029	VI-15

List of Figures

Figure II-1	Regional Location	II-2
Figure II-2	Covina City Boundaries and Sphere of Influence	II-3

This page intentionally left blank

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing Elements have been a required component of city General Plans since 1969. State requirements for Housing Elements are summarized in California Government Code Section 65583:

The housing element shall consist of an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, financial resources, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. The housing element shall identify adequate sites for housing, including rental housing, factory-built housing, mobile homes, and emergency shelters, and shall make adequate provision for the existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community.

In recent years, as California has gradually recovered from the “Great Recession” population and job growth have outpaced housing development, leading to a supply/demand imbalance, rising housing prices and rents, and affordability problems, particularly for families of modest means. While the causes of the affordability problem are complex, cities play an important role in addressing this issue. Through their planning and land use regulatory powers, local governments can have a substantial effect on housing supply and affordability, and the related problem of homelessness.

In addition to encouraging additional housing development to support the growing population and economy, State law establishes other priorities such as economic and environmental sustainability. A major strategy in pursuing these objectives is to encourage compact development patterns that make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimize the time, cost and environmental impacts of transportation.

As a component of Covina’s General Plan, this Housing Element focuses on establishing policies and programs to facilitate the provision of additional housing commensurate with the city’s needs in a manner that supports sustainability objectives while complementing the City’s history and context.

Consistent with the General Plan Land Use Element, the major feature of the City’s overall housing strategy is transformation of the Town Center area surrounding the Covina Metrolink station to a vibrant mixed-use area that provides a wide range of opportunities for housing, jobs, services and entertainment for all segments of the population. The Town Center Specific Plan provides specific policies and regulations to implement that vision.

Pursuant to the requirements of State law, this Housing Element includes the following sections:

- An Introduction providing background information and context for the Housing Element (Chapter II)
- An analysis of the city’s demographic and housing characteristics and trends (Chapter III)
- An evaluation of resources and opportunities available to address housing issues (Chapter IV)

- A review of potential market, governmental, and environmental constraints to meeting housing needs (Chapter V)
- The Housing Action Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period (Chapter VI)
- A review of accomplishments during the previous planning period (Appendix A)
- An inventory of the potential sites for housing development (Appendix B)
- A summary of opportunities for public participation during the preparation and adoption of this Housing Element (Appendix C)
- Appendix D includes a Fair Housing Assessment

Additional information related to this Housing Element and other components of the City's planning program may be found on the Covina website at: <https://covinaca.gov/pc>

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Community Context

Covina is a mature, suburban community located in the easterly portion of the San Gabriel Valley approximately 23 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The city is bounded by a number of other incorporated cities that include West Covina on the south, Baldwin Park on the west, Azusa and Glendora on the north, and San Dimas on the east. In addition, numerous unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County are found adjacent to the city and within Covina's designated sphere of influence. The City's regional location is shown in **Figure II-1** while the City boundaries and Sphere of Influence are shown in **Figure II-2**.

The area that would eventually become the City of Covina was first settled in the late 1880s. Covina became an incorporated city in 1901 and is one of the oldest cities in Los Angeles County. Covina has a diverse variety of housing types that reflects its long history beginning as a farming community up to its largely suburban character at the present time. The planning area that is governed by the Housing Element has a total land area of approximately seven square miles.

Covina was largely a rural agricultural community prior to 1950s. The early residents strived to maintain a small-town atmosphere by placing homes, businesses, and places of employment within a single square mile area that in turn, was surrounded by citrus groves and agricultural uses. The postwar suburban expansion that occurred in the Southern California region contributed to significant growth in Covina in the 1950s. In recent decades, virtually all of the remaining vacant land in the city has been developed. The majority of the city's population growth that has occurred since 1970 has been largely due to annexations and newer infill development where lower-density residential development (largely single-family homes) was replaced by higher-density townhomes, condominiums, and apartments.

B. Role of Housing Element

Covina is faced with various important housing issues that include a balance between employment and housing opportunities, preserving existing neighborhoods, and providing sufficient opportunities for new housing to accommodate growth and the changing population.

Pursuant to State law, this Housing Element is an eight-year plan for the period 2021-2029. As described in Chapter V, policies and programs are identified that focus on: 1) conserving and improving existing affordable housing; 2) facilitating housing production in all income levels to accommodate growth; 3) encouraging home ownership for first-time buyers and households of low and moderate income; 4) mitigating constraints to housing for households of all economic levels and persons with disabilities; and 5) promoting equal housing opportunities.

Figure II-1
Regional Location

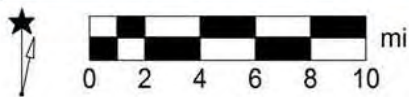
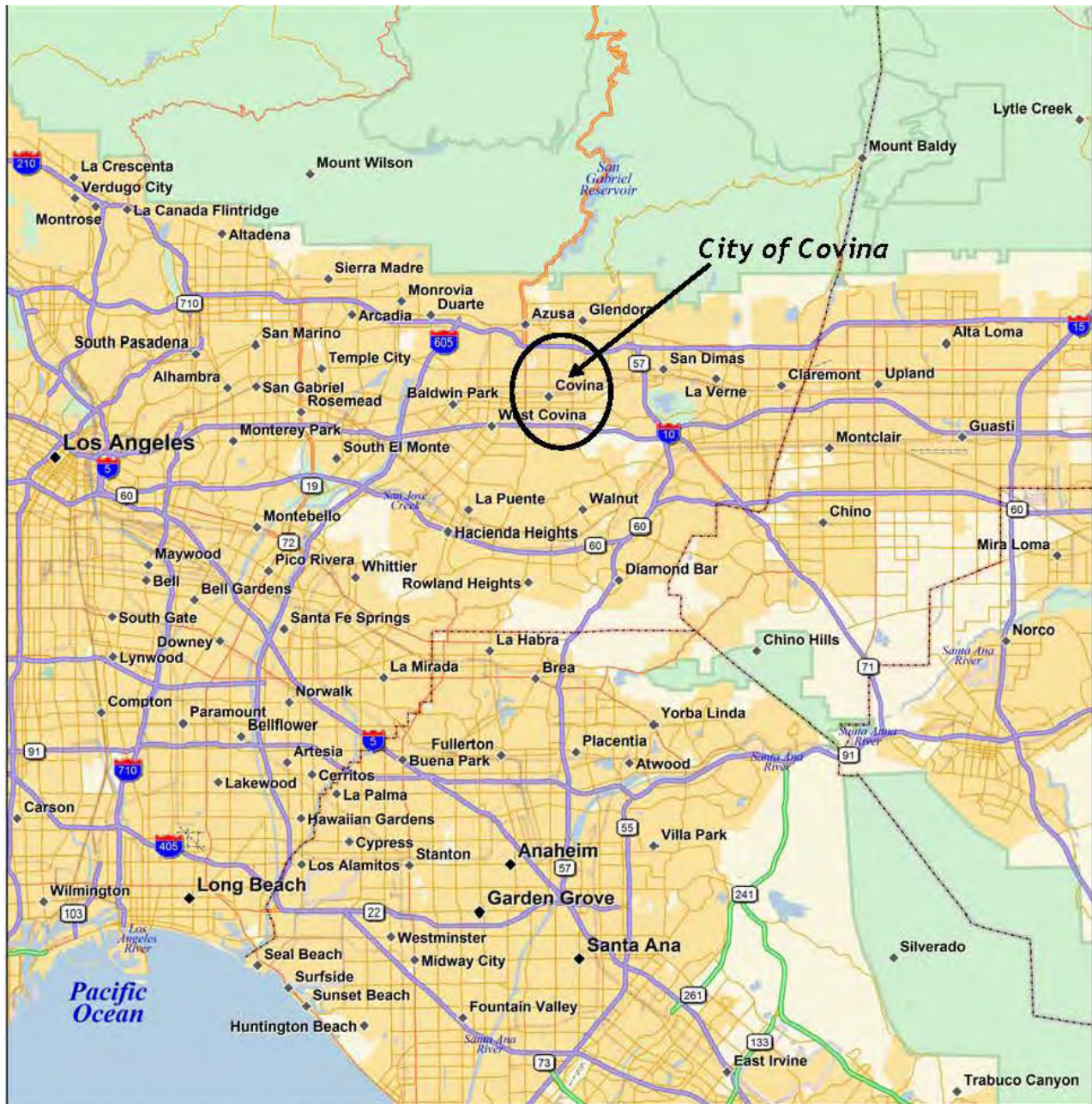
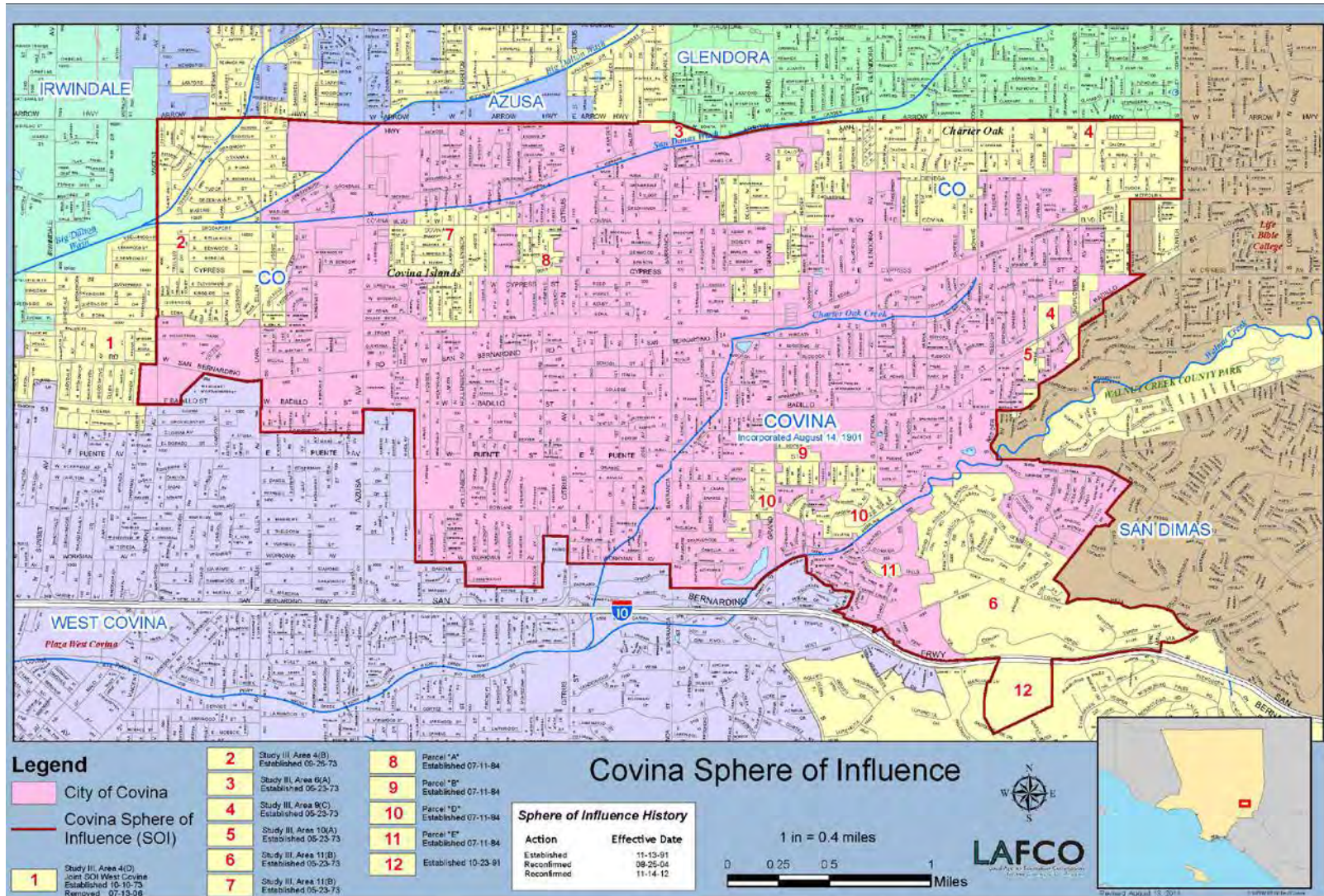


Figure II-2
Covina City Boundaries and Sphere of Influence



The following chapters include the following major components:

- An analysis of the city's demographic and housing characteristics and trends (Chapter III);
- An evaluation of resources and opportunities available to address housing issues (Chapter IV);
- A review of potential market, governmental, and environmental constraints to meeting housing needs (Chapter V);
- The Housing Action Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period (Chapter VI); and
- A review of accomplishments during the previous planning period (Appendix A).
- An inventory of the potential sites for housing development (Appendix B)
- Appendix C describes opportunities for public participation during the preparation and adoption of this Housing Element
- Appendix D includes a Fair Housing Assessment

C. Information Sources

In preparing the Housing Element, a wide variety of data sources were consulted. The U.S. Census and American Community Survey data provide the basis for population and household characteristics. The Census remains the most comprehensive and widely accepted source of information on demographic characteristics. Other sources of information are used to supplement Census data, and include:

- Population and demographic data provided by the State Department of Finance;
- Housing market information, such as home sales, rents, and vacancies;
- Local public and nonprofit agency information on special needs populations, services available to them, and gaps in the system;
- Information on housing conditions based on City planning and code enforcement activities;
- Fair housing data and maps from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, and other sources.

D. Public Participation

Residents as well as members of business and civic groups participated in the Housing Element update process. Please refer to Appendix C for further information regarding the public participation program.

E. Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

In addition to the Housing Element, the Covina General Plan is comprised of the following elements: Land Use; Circulation; Natural Resources and Open Space; Safety; and Noise. This Housing Element supports the policies of the other General Plan elements. For example, residential development policies established in the Land Use Element are reflected in the Housing Element, and the analysis of environmental constraints in the Housing Element is based upon information from the Natural Resources and Open Space, Safety and Noise Elements.

As the General Plan is amended from time to time, the Housing Element will be reviewed and amended as necessary to maintain consistency with other elements of the General Plan.

This page intentionally left blank

III. HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This chapter examines general population and household characteristics and trends, such as age, race and ethnicity, employment, household composition and size, household income, and special needs. Characteristics of the existing housing stock (e.g., number of units and type, tenure, age and condition, costs) are also addressed. Finally, the city's projected housing growth needs based on the 2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) are examined.

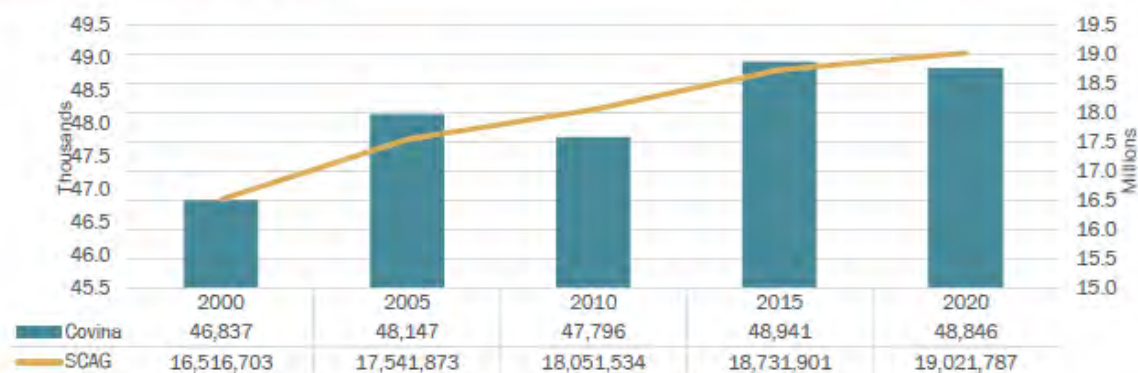
The Housing Needs Assessment utilizes recent data from the U.S. Census, California Department of Finance (DOF), California Employment Development Department (EDD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and other relevant sources.

A. Population Characteristics

1. Population Growth Trends

Covina had an estimated total population of 48,846 in 2020 including 435 persons living in group quarters according to the California Department of Finance. Population trends for Covina and the SCAG region as a whole during 2000 to 2020 are shown in **Table III-1**. Over this period Covina had an annual growth rate of 0.2% compared to 0.7% for the region. Covina's slow growth rate reflects the fact that it is a mature city with a relatively small amount of vacant land available for development.

**Table III-1
Population Trends 2000-2020 –
Covina vs. SCAG Region**



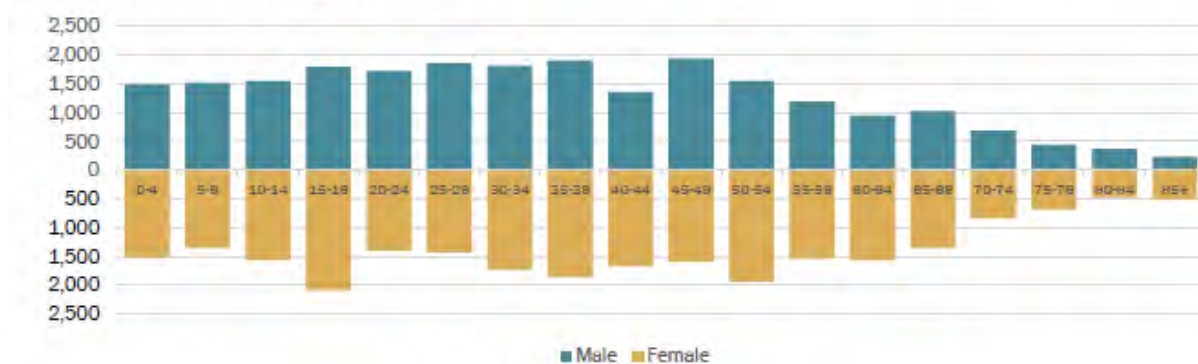
CA DOF E-5 Population and Housing Unit Estimates

2. Age

Housing needs are influenced by the age characteristics of the population. Different age groups require different accommodations based on lifestyle, family type, income level,

and housing preference. **Table III-2** shows the city's population by age group and gender. According to recent Census estimates the population of Covina is approximately 48.3% male and 51.7% female. The share of the population of Covina under 18 years of age is 23.4%, which is higher than the regional share of 23.4%. Covina's seniors (65 and above) make up 13.6% of the population, which is slightly higher than the regional share of 13%.

Table III-2
Age Distribution by Gender -
Covina



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates

B. Household Characteristics

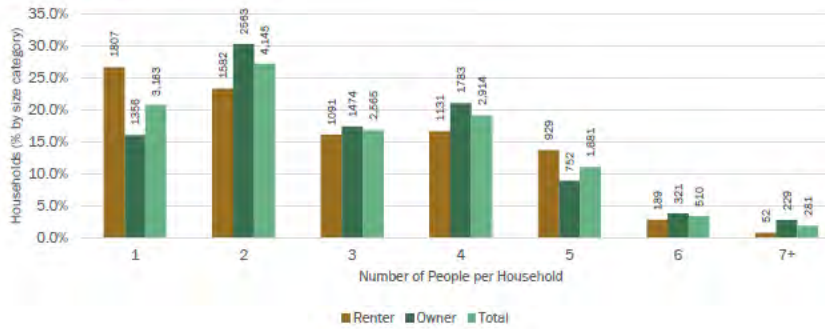
1. Household Composition and Size

Household characteristics are important indicators of the type and size of housing needed in a city. The Census defines a "household" as all persons occupying a housing unit, which may include single persons living alone, families related through marriage or blood, or unrelated persons sharing a single unit. Persons in group quarters such as dormitories, retirement or convalescent homes, or other group living situations are included in population totals but are not considered households.

Table III-3 illustrates the range of household sizes in Covina for owners, renters, and overall. The most commonly occurring household size is of two people (27.2%) and the second-most commonly occurring household is of one person (20.7%). Covina has a lower share of single-person households than the SCAG region overall (20.7% vs. 23.4%) and a lower share of 7+ person households than the SCAG region overall (1.8% vs. 3.1%).

**Table III-3
Household Composition –
Covina vs. Los Angeles County**

Households by Household Size

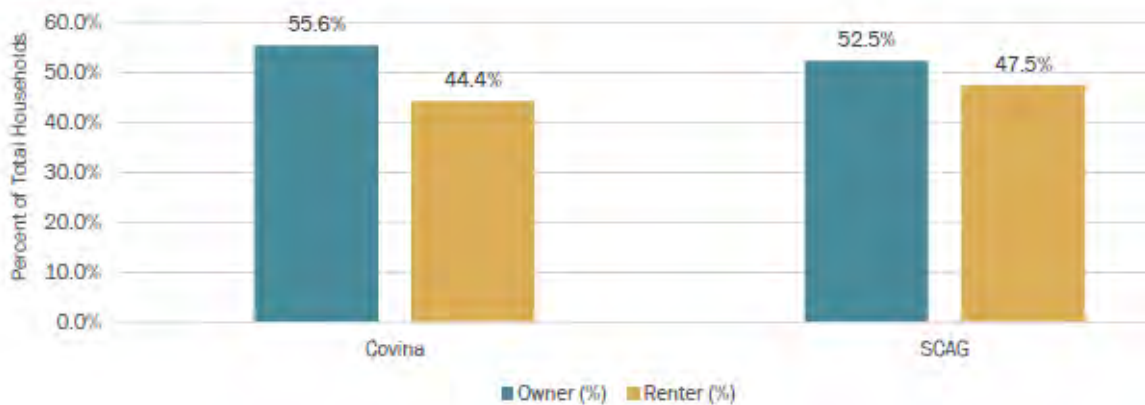


American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

2. Housing Tenure and Vacancy

Housing tenure (owner versus renter) is an important indicator of the housing market. Communities need an adequate supply of units available both for rent and for sale to accommodate a range of households with varying income, family size and composition, and lifestyle. **Table III-4** provides a comparison of owner-occupied and renter-occupied units in Covina as compared to the SCAG region as a whole. Census estimates reveal that approximately 56% of Covina's housing stock is owner-occupied compared to about 53% for the SCAG region overall.

**Table III-4
Household Tenure –
Covina vs. SCAG Region**

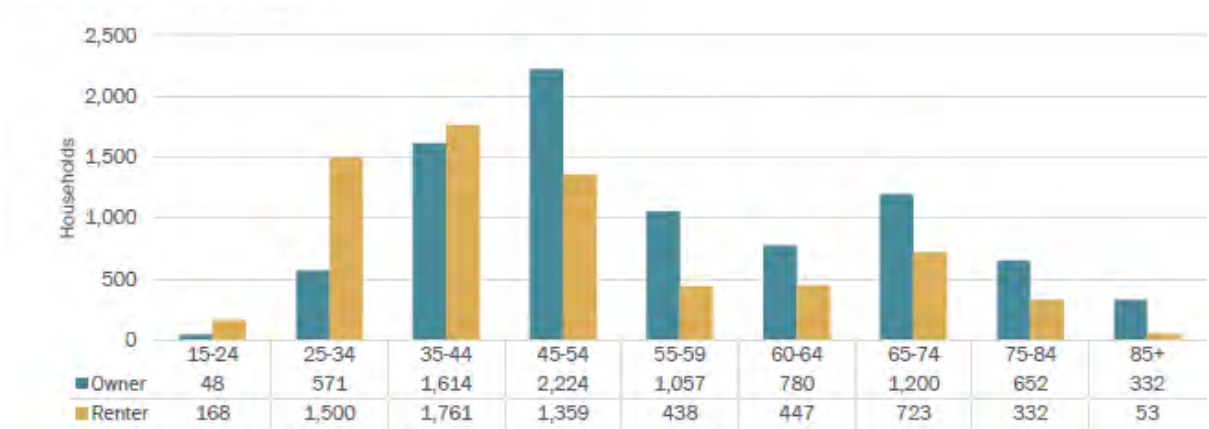


American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

Homeownership rates generally increase as people grow older. As shown in **Table III-5**, homeowners in Covina outnumber renters among persons over age 45.

Vacancy characteristics for Covina and the SCAG region as a whole are illustrated in **Table III-6**. The largest proportion of vacant units in Covina are homes for sale while seasonal vacancies are most common in the region as a whole.

Table III-5
Household Tenure by Age -
Covina



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

Table III-6
Vacant Units by Type -
Covina vs. SCAG Region

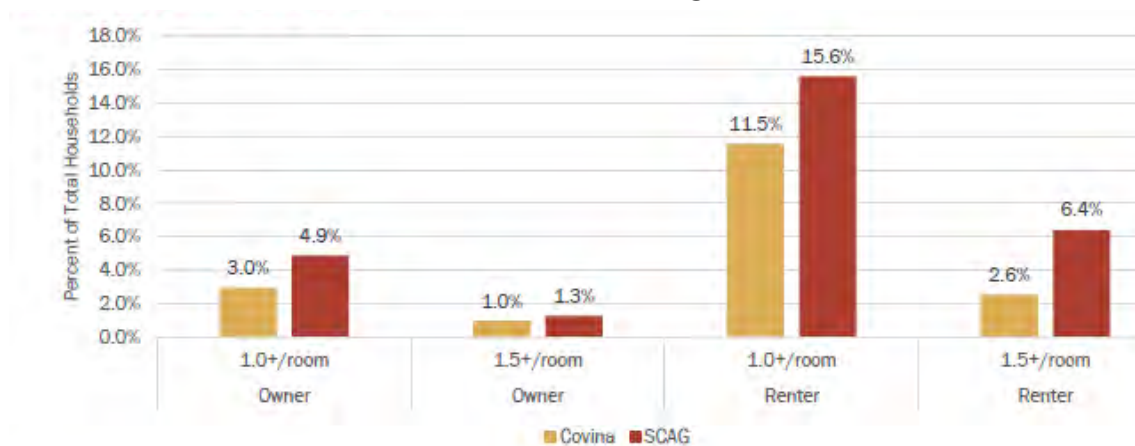


American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

3. Overcrowding

Overcrowding is often closely related to household income and the cost of housing. The U.S. Census Bureau considers a household to be overcrowded when there is more than one person per room, excluding bathrooms and kitchens, and severely overcrowded when there are more than 1.5 occupants per room. **Table III-7** summarizes the incidence of overcrowding in Covina as compared to the SCAG region as a whole. In Covina, about 3% of owner-occupied households and 12% of renter-occupied households were overcrowded while severe overcrowding affected about 1% of owner households and 3% of renter households. Among both owners and renters, overcrowding is less prevalent in Covina than in the region as a whole.

Table III-7
Overcrowding by Tenure –
Covina vs. SCAG Region



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

4. Extremely-Low-Income Households

Extremely-low-income (ELI) is defined as less than 30% of area median income. Housing the ELI population can be especially challenging. HUD's CHAS data shows that the racial/ethnic group with the highest share of ELI households in Covina is Hispanic (14.5% compared to 12.8% of total population). In the SCAG region, the highest share of extremely-low-income households is Black, non-Hispanic (27.1% compared to 17.7% of total households). ELI households are much more likely to be renters than the population as a whole (**Table III-8**).

Table III-8
Extremely-Low-Income Households -
Covina

	Total Households	Households below 30% HAMFI	Share below 30% HAMFI
White, non-Hispanic	5,065	645	12.7%
Black, non-Hispanic	692	55	7.9%
Asian and other, non-Hispanic	2,110	189	9.0%
Hispanic	7,315	1,060	14.5%
TOTAL	15,182	1,949	12.8%
Renter-occupied	6,890	1,360	19.7%
Owner-occupied	8,285	580	7.0%
TOTAL	15,175	1,940	12.8%

HUD CHAS, 2012-2016. HAMFI refers to Housing Urban Development Area Median Family Income.

5. Overpayment

According to State housing policy, overpaying occurs when housing costs exceed 30% of gross household income. **Table III-9** displays recent estimates for overpayment for Covina households by income category. As shown in this table, overpayment is much more prevalent among lower-income households.

Table III-9
Overpayment by Income Category - Covina

Income	Households by Share of Income Spent on Housing Cost:		
	< 30%	30-50%	> 50%
< 30% HAMFI	160	150	1,530
30-50% HAMFI	635	925	715
50-80% HAMFI	1,530	1,400	425
80-100% HAMFI	1,090	464	30
> 100% HAMFI	5,425	589	20
Total Households	8,840	3,528	2,720

HUD CHAS, 2012-2016. HAMFI refers to Housing Urban Development Area Median Family Income.

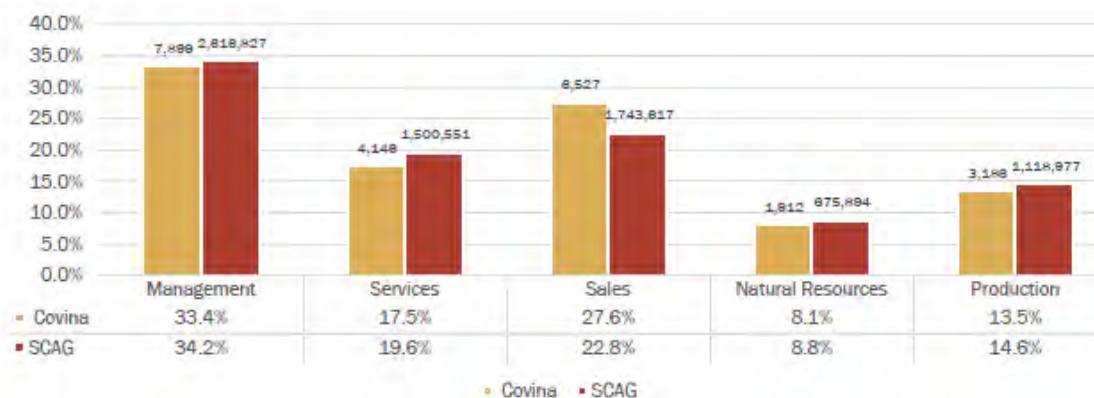
Although homeowners enjoy income and property tax deductions and other benefits that help to compensate for high housing costs, lower-income homeowners may need to defer maintenance or repairs due to limited funds, which can lead to deterioration. For lower-income renters, severe cost burdens can require families to double up resulting in overcrowding and related problems. Programs in the Housing Plan that help to address the problems of overpayment include 1.3 Section 8 Rental Assistance, 1.4 Preservation of Assisted Housing, 1.5 Mobile Home Park Preservation, 2.1 Adequate Sites to Accommodate Housing Needs, 2.2 Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites, 2.3 Accessory Dwelling Units, 2.4 Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households, and 3.1 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance.

C. Employment Characteristics

Employment is an important factor affecting housing needs within a community. The jobs available in each employment sector and the wages for these jobs affect the type and size of housing residents can afford.

Table III-10 shows that the most prevalent occupational category in Covina is Management, in which 7,899 (33.4% of total) employees work. The second-most prevalent type of work is in Sales, which employs 6,527 (27.6% of total) in Covina.

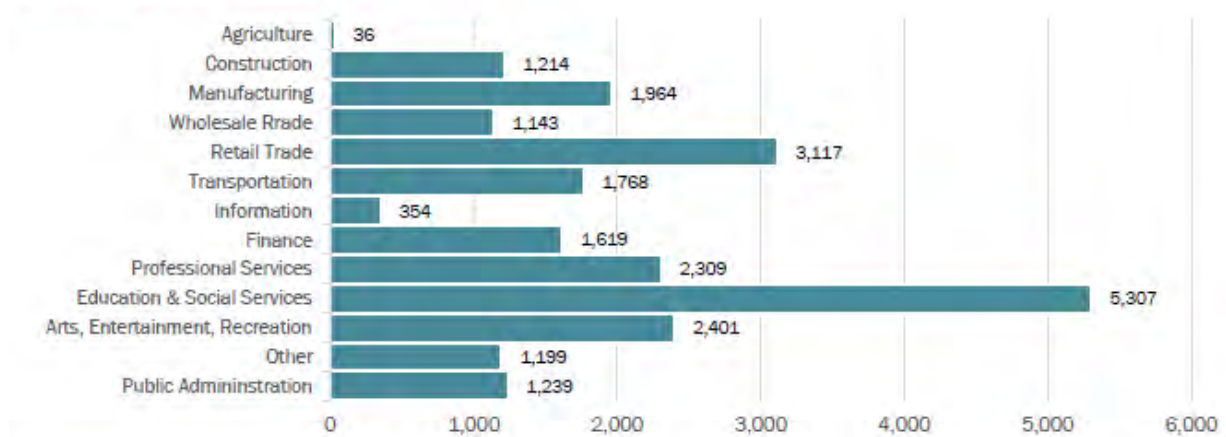
Table III-10
Employment by Occupation –
Covina vs. SCAG Region



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates using groupings of SOC codes.

Recent Census estimates (**Table III-11**) reported that Covina has 23,670 workers living within its borders who work across 13 major industrial sectors. The most prevalent industry is Education & Social Services with 5,307 employees (22.4% of total) and the second most prevalent industry is Retail trade with 3,117 employees (13.2% of total).

**Table III-11
Employment by Industry – Covina**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates using groupings of 2-digit NAICS codes.

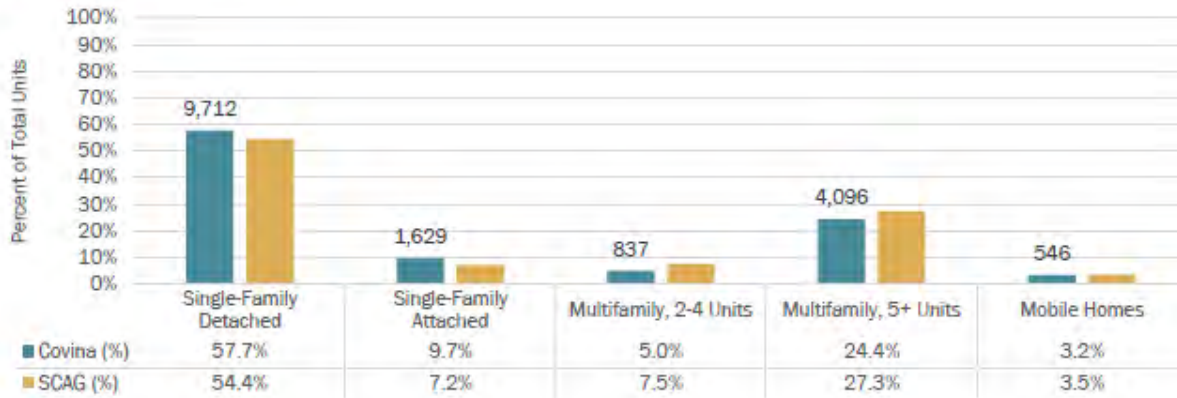
D. Housing Stock Characteristics

This section reviews the characteristics of Covina's housing stock and helps in identifying and prioritizing needs. The factors evaluated include the number and type of housing units, housing age and condition, housing costs and affordability, and assisted affordable units at risk of loss due to conversion to market-rate. As defined by the Census Bureau, a housing unit is a house, apartment, mobile home, or group of rooms occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters.

1. Housing Type and Growth Trends

As shown in **Table III-12** the most prevalent housing type in Covina is single-family detached with about 58% of units. When single-family attached units are included, the share of all single-family units in Covina is about 67%, which is higher than the 62% share in the SCAG region as a whole. The average household size (as expressed by the population to housing unit ratio) is approximately 3.0.

**Table III-12
Housing by Type –
Covina vs. SCAG Region**

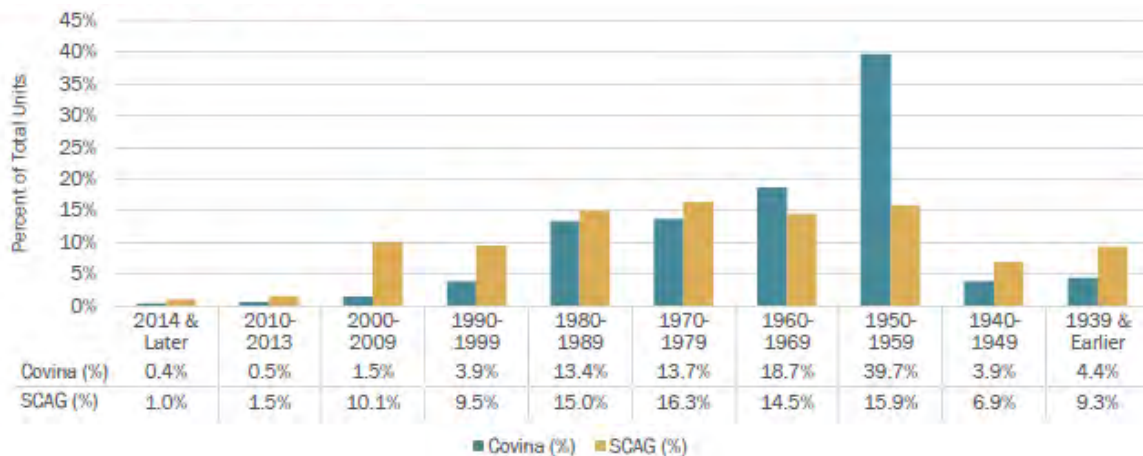


CA DOF E-5 Population and Housing Unit Estimates

2. Housing Age and Conditions

Housing age is often an important indicator of housing condition. Housing units built prior to 1978 before stringent limits on the amount of lead in paint were imposed may have interior or exterior building components coated with lead-based paint. Housing units built before 1970 are the most likely to need rehabilitation and to have lead-based paint in a deteriorated condition. Lead-based paint becomes hazardous to children under age six and to pregnant women when it peels off walls or is pulverized by windows and doors opening and closing.

**Table III-13
Age of Housing Stock –
Covina vs. SCAG Region**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

Table III-13 shows the age distribution of the housing stock in Covina compared to the SCAG region as a whole. This table shows that about two-thirds of housing units in Covina were constructed before 1970. This suggests that there is likely to be a need for maintenance and rehabilitation, including remediation of lead-based paint, for a substantial number of housing units in the city. City Code Enforcement staff estimates that approximately 30% of housing units in the city are in need of some repair or rehabilitation, and approximately 10% of units may require substantial rehabilitation or replacement. As described in Chapter VI, Program 1.2, the Residential Rehabilitation Program provides funding assistance to low- to moderate-income homeowners for home repairs.

3. Housing Cost

Housing Affordability Criteria

State law establishes five income categories for purposes of housing programs based on the area (i.e., county) median income ("AMI"): extremely-low (30% or less of AMI), very-low (31-50% of AMI), low (51-80% of AMI), moderate (81-120% of AMI) and above moderate (over 120% of AMI). Housing affordability is based on the relationship between household income and housing expenses. According to HUD and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) housing is considered "affordable" if monthly cost, including utilities, is no more than 30% of a household's gross income. In some areas such as Los Angeles County, these income limits may be increased to adjust for high housing costs.

Table III-14 shows affordable rent levels and estimated affordable purchase prices for housing in Covina (and Los Angeles County)¹ by income category. Based on 2022 State-adopted standards, the maximum affordable monthly rent for extremely-low-income households is \$894, while the maximum affordable rent for very-low-income households is \$1,489. The maximum affordable rent for low-income households is \$2,383, while the maximum for moderate-income households is \$2,733.

Maximum purchase prices are more difficult to determine due to variations in mortgage interest rates and qualifying procedures, down payments, special assessments, homeowner association fees, property insurance rates, etc. With this caveat, maximum home purchase prices by income category shown in **Table III-14** have been estimated based on typical conditions.

¹ Affordable rent and purchase prices are based on State income limits as of 2022.

**Table III-14
Income Categories and Affordable Housing Costs –
Los Angeles County**

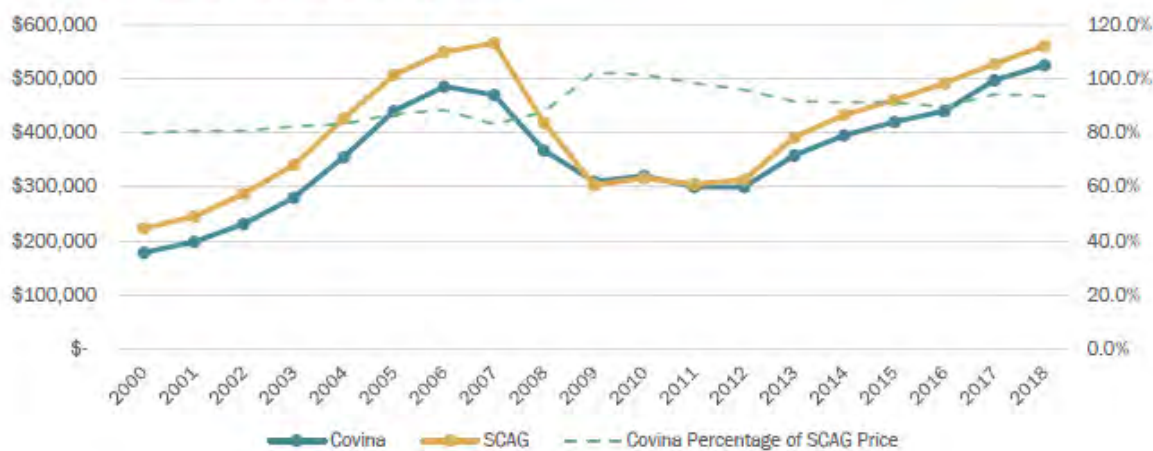
Income Category	Income Limits	Affordable Rent	Affordable Price (est.)
Extremely Low (<30%)	\$35,750	\$894	*
Very Low (31-50%)	\$59,550	\$1,489	*
Low (51-80%)	\$95,300	\$2,383	*
Moderate (81-120%)	\$109,300	\$2,733	\$360,000
Above moderate (120%+)	>\$109,300	>\$2,733	>\$360,000

Assumptions:
 -Based on a family of 4 and 2022 State income limits
 -30% of gross income for rent or PITI
 -10% down payment, 6.5% interest, 1.25% taxes & insurance, \$350 HOA dues
 Source: Cal. HCD; JHD Planning LLC

For-Sale Housing

Between 2000 and 2018, median home sales prices in Covina increased 195% while prices in the SCAG region increased 151%. 2018 median home sales price in Covina was \$525,000 and the highest experienced since 2000 was \$525,000 in 2018. Prices in Covina have ranged from a low of 79.8% of the SCAG region median in 2000 and a high of 102.3% in 2009 (Table III-15).

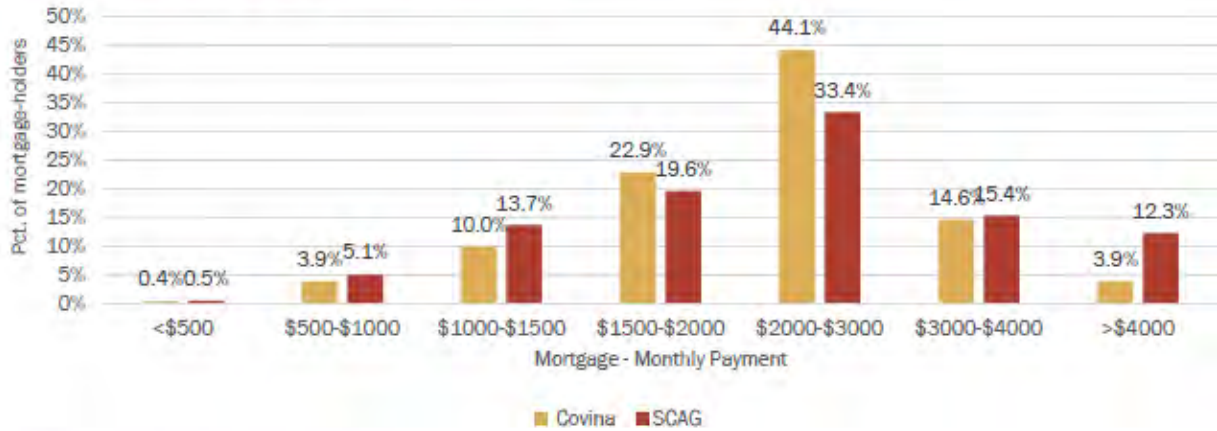
**Table III-15
Median Sales Price for Existing Homes 2000-2018 –
Covina vs. SCAG Region**



SCAG Local Profiles, Core Logic/Data Quick. SCAG median home sales price calculated as household-weighted average of county medians.

As shown in Table III-16, the most common monthly cost for homeowners in Covina and the region as a whole is \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Table III-16
Monthly Owner Costs for Mortgage Holders –
Covina vs. SCAG Region



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

Rental Housing

Table III-17 shows that the most common share of income spent on rent in Covina is over 50%. About 53% of Covina's renter households spend 30% or more of gross income on housing cost, compared to about 55% in the SCAG region. About 24% of renter households in Covina spend 50% or more of gross income on housing cost, compared to about 29% in the SCAG region as a whole (Table III-18). A recent internet search of rental housing found monthly rents ranging from approximately \$1,500 for a 1-bedroom unit to \$2,850 for a 2-bedroom unit.

Table III-17
Percentage of Income Spent on Rent –
Covina

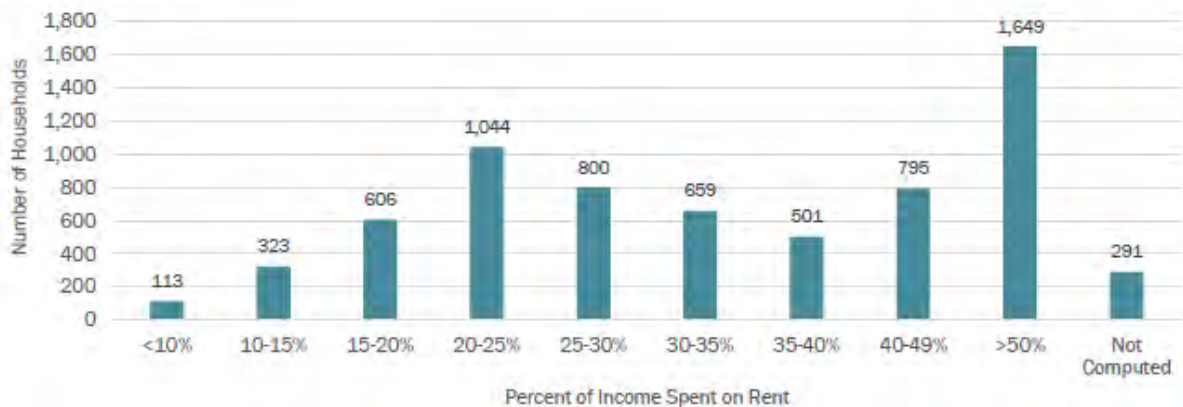
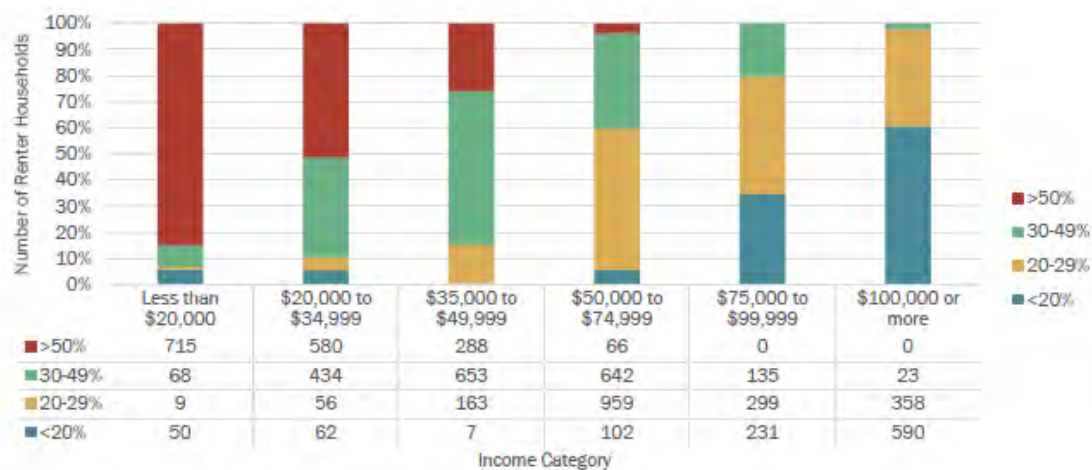


Table III-18
Rental Expense by Income Category –
Covina



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

E. Special Needs

Certain groups have greater difficulty in finding decent, affordable housing due to special circumstances. Such circumstances may be related to one's employment and income, family characteristics, disability, or other conditions. As a result, some Covina residents may experience a higher prevalence of overpayment, overcrowding, or other housing problems.

State Housing Element law defines "special needs" groups to include persons with disabilities, the elderly, large households, female-headed households with children, homeless people, and farm workers. This section contains a discussion of the housing needs facing each of these groups.

Resources and services available to assist persons and families with special needs in Covina include the following:

- The Covina Housing Authority owns and operates a 7-bed transitional house for homeless women and children, offering free accommodation to families, with case management and program oversight provided by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. The Housing Authority also subsidizes two transitional housing units in a local residence for victims of domestic violence with income not to exceed 80 percent AMI. That subsidy is funded for a period of 10 years. In addition, funding was provided for rehabilitation of the residence and a covenant was recorded providing affordable rents for 7

transitional housing units (4 extremely-low-income, 2 very-low-income and 1 low-income) and 4 shelter units (3 extremely-low-income and 1 very-low-income) for 55 years.

- The YWCA San Gabriel Valley operates an 11-unit domestic violence shelter in Covina, offering a combination of shelter and transitional housing beds. The City of Covina is continuing to work cooperatively with the County and other San Gabriel Valley cities to facilitate the establishment of additional facilities and services to address the needs of the homeless population.
- In 2017 the City of Covina received a \$30,000 grant from the County of Los Angeles to fund the preparation of a City Plan to Combat Homelessness, which was completed in 2018. This Plan assessed available resources to address the homeless challenge; identified opportunities for Covina to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and neighboring cities on initiatives to address homelessness; and established goals and supporting strategies.
- In 2020 the City adopted an Emergency Shelter Overlay Zone ordinance establishing procedures and development standards for by-right approval of emergency shelters and navigation centers.
- Navigation Center – In June 2022, the City executed a 50-year property lease agreement with Covina Housing Authority for two parcels located at 534 North Barranca Avenue and 601 block of East San Bernardino Road (APN: 8429-009-900 and 8429-009-024), and for the future navigation center. In September 2022 the City received a grant from the San Gabriel Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) through its Homeless Housing Pilot Program for technical assistance including a design plan for a 30-bed homeless shelter with support services such as counseling related to alcohol and drug addiction, domestic abuse, jobs, health care and mental health; project management; and cost estimation for development and maintenance. Completion of the design plan is anticipated by December 2023.
- The City's General Plan and zoning regulations provide for a variety of housing types at densities up to 50 dwelling units per acre, and higher densities can be achieved through density bonus provisions. The Town Center Specific Plan allows stand-alone multi-family development at up to 40 dwelling units per acre and mixed-use development at up to 50 dwelling units per acre. These standards encourage and facilitate the production of affordable housing. Moreover, the City has taken affirmative steps to remove barriers to housing construction by amending the RD multi-family regulations (Municipal Code Chapter 17.28) to establish clear objective standards for multi-family housing and provide more development certainty.
- In 2022 the City adopted a Mixed-Use Overlay District ("MUOD"), which allows development of residential uses in areas that were previously zoned only for industrial or commercial uses. This overlay district provides even more

opportunities for affordable and special needs housing development in areas that previously did not allow residential uses, and encourages the recycling of properties that are distressed.

1. Persons with Disabilities

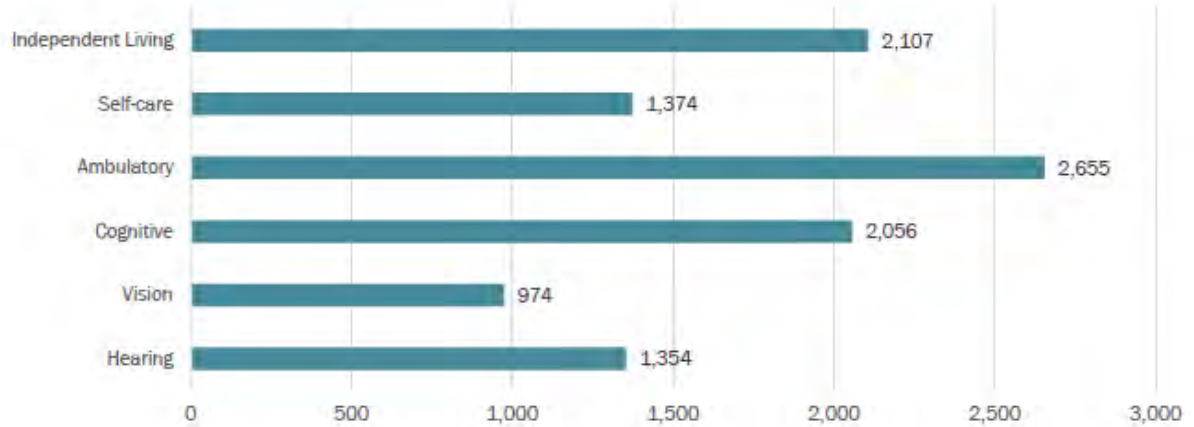
According to recent Census estimates, over 10% of non-institutionalized Covina residents reported some type of disability. The most commonly reported types of disabilities were ambulatory, independent living, and cognitive (**Table III-19**). As seen in **Table III-20** the most commonly occurring disability in Covina among seniors 65 and older was an ambulatory disability, experienced by about 24% of Covina's seniors and 23% of seniors in the SCAG region. Nearly half of Covina residents with a disability were in the labor force (**Table III-21**).

According to the California Department of Social Services database there are approximately 40 licensed adult residential facilities in Covina, most of which are small facilities serving up to six persons, while four facilities serve between 13 and 80 persons. In addition, there are approximately 12 residential care facilities for the elderly, with capacities ranging from 6 to 112 persons.

A variety of challenges face those with disabilities including low incomes, shortage of affordable and accessible housing, and higher health costs associated with their disability. Suitable living arrangements for persons with disabilities depend on the severity of the disability. Many persons live at home in an independent environment with the help of other family members or care-givers. To maintain independent living, disabled persons may require assistance such as special housing design features to accommodate physical disabilities, income assistance for those unable to work, and in-home supportive services for persons with medical conditions. Housing opportunities for those with disabilities can be maximized through housing assistance programs and providing universal design features such as widened doorways, ramps, lowered countertops, single-level units and ground floor units, as well as City regulations to encourage the provision of housing that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities such as supportive housing and residential care facilities (see Chapter V).

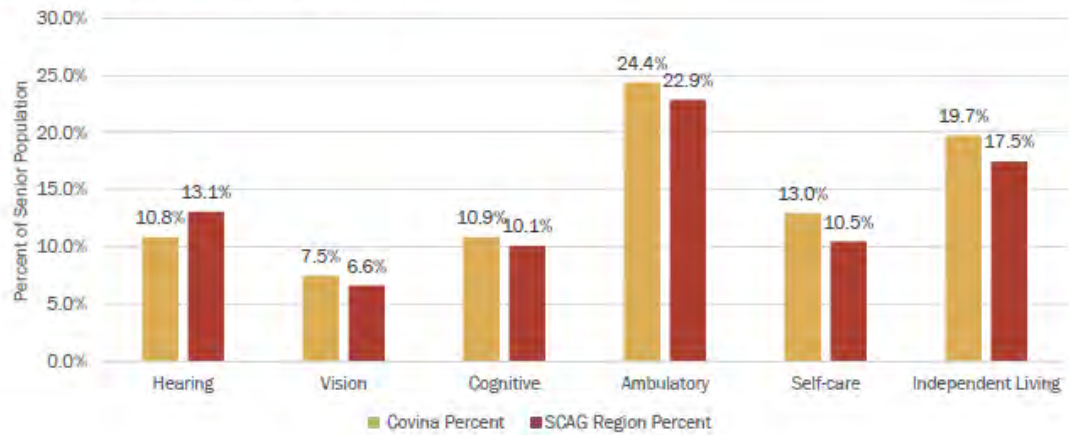
Many of the programs described in Chapter VI help to address the housing needs of persons with disabilities, such as Program 1.3 (Section 8 Rental Assistance), Program 2.3 (Accessory Dwelling Units), Program 2.4 (Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households), Program 4.1 (Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities), and Program 4.2 (Emergency Shelters and Transitional/Supportive Housing).

**Table III-19
Disabilities by Type –
Covina**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

**Table III-20
Disabilities by Type for Seniors 65+ –
Covina**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

**Table III-21
Disabilities by Employment Status –
Covina**

	With a Disability	Percent of Total	No Disability	Percent of Total
Employed	975	42%	21,758	77%
Unemployed	137	6%	1,482	5%
Not in Labor Force	1,216	52%	4,863	17%
TOTAL	2,328		28,103	

American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

Developmental Disabilities

As defined by federal law, “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: a) self-care; b) receptive and expressive language; c) learning; d) mobility; e) self-direction; f) capacity for independent living; or g) economic self-sufficiency; and
- Reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

The Census does not record developmental disabilities as a separate category of disability. According to the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities, an accepted estimate of the percentage of the population that can be defined as developmentally disabled is 1.5 percent. Many developmentally disabled persons can live and work independently within a conventional housing environment. More severely disabled individuals require a group living environment where supervision is provided. The most severely affected individuals may require an institutional environment where medical attention and physical therapy are provided. Because developmental disabilities exist before adulthood, the first issue in supportive housing for the developmentally disabled is the transition from the person’s living situation as a child to an appropriate level of independence as an adult.

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provides community-based services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families through a statewide system of 21 regional centers, four developmental centers, and two community-based facilities. The San Gabriel-Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC) located in Pomona (<http://www.sgprc.org/>) provides services for people with developmental disabilities in the San Gabriel Valley area. The SG/PRC is a private, non-profit community agency that contracts with local businesses to offer a wide range of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The most recent SG/PRC caseload report identified 13,523 total consumers served in February 2019.² According to data compiled by the California Department of Developmental Services, approximately 950 persons with developmental disabilities were identified in Covina zip codes (91722, 91723 and 91724) as of December 2018.

There is no charge for diagnosis and assessment for eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, most services are free regardless of age or income. There is a requirement for parents to share the cost of 24-hour out-of-home placements for children under age 18. This share depends on the parents' ability to pay. There may also be a co-payment requirement for other selected services.

Regional centers are required by law to provide services in the most cost-effective way possible. They must use all other resources, including generic resources, before using any regional center funds. A generic resource is a service provided by an agency that has a legal responsibility to provide services to the general public and receives public funds for providing those services. Some generic agencies may include the local school district, county social services department, Medi-Cal, Social Security Administration, Department of Rehabilitation and others. Other resources may include natural supports. This is help that disabled persons may get from family, friends or others at little or no cost.

2. Elderly

Federal housing data define a household type as 'elderly family' if it consists of two persons with either or both age 62 or over. Of Covina's 3,320 such households, about 23% earn less than 30% of the surrounding area income, (compared to 24% in the SCAG region), 41% earn less than 50% of the surrounding area income (compared to 31% in the SCAG region). Approximately 23% of elderly households fell within the extremely-low-income category (**Table III-22**).

Many elderly persons are dependent on fixed incomes, higher health care costs, or have disabilities. Although the majority (62%) of senior households in Covina are homeowners, they may be physically unable to maintain their homes. Among senior renters, 79% fell in the lower income categories. Seniors living alone may face a variety of challenges including help with daily chores or social isolation. The housing needs of this group can be addressed through smaller units, accessory dwelling units on lots with existing homes, shared living arrangements, congregate housing and housing assistance programs.

² https://www.dds.ca.gov/FactsStats/Caseload_Main.cfm

According to the California Department of Social Services database there are approximately 12 residential care facilities for the elderly in Covina with capacities ranging from 6 to 112 persons. The City of Covina also offers senior programs supported by CDBG funds, including legal and tax assistance, blood pressure checks, hearing tests and rental advice. A nutrition program and case manager services administered by the YWCA Intervale Senior Services are also offered. Additional information regarding assistance programs serving Covina seniors is available on the City's website at <https://covinaca.gov/parksrec/page/senior-services>

Many of the programs described in Chapter VI help to address the housing needs of seniors, such as Program 1.2 (Residential Rehabilitation), Program 1.3 (Section 8 Rental Assistance), Program 1.5 (Mobile Home Park Preservation), Program 2.3 (Accessory Dwelling Units), Program 2.4 (Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households), and Program 4.1 (Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities).

The elderly tend to have higher rates of disabilities than younger persons; therefore, many of the programs noted in the previous section also apply to seniors since their housing needs include both affordability and accessibility.

Table III-22
Elderly Households by Income and Tenure -
Covina

	Owner	Renter	Total	Percent of Total Elderly Households:	
Income category, relative to surrounding area:	< 30% HAMFI	250	500	750	22.6%
	30-50% HAMFI	370	230	600	18.1%
	50-80% HAMFI	460	265	725	21.8%
	80-100% HAMFI	215	170	385	11.6%
	> 100% HAMFI	760	100	860	25.9%
TOTAL	2,055	1,265	3,320		

HUD CHAS, 2012-2016. HAMFI refers to Housing Urban Development Area Median Family Income.

3. Large Households

Household size is an indicator of need for large units. Large households are defined as those with five or more members. Approximately 47% of owner households and 51% of renter households in Covina have only one or two persons. About 16% of owners and 19% of renter households were considered large households with 5 persons or more (**Table III-23**). According to recent Census estimates, approximately 9,233 housing units in Covina

had 3 or more bedrooms (58% of all units) as compared to only 2,575 households with five or more members. However, while the overall supply of larger housing units is adequate, the rising costs of rents and housing prices can still result in cost burden or overcrowding for some large families. Programs described in the Housing Plan to assist such households include Program 1.3 (Section 8 Rental Assistance) and Program 2.4 (Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households).

Table III-23
Household Size by Tenure –
Covina

Household Size	Owner		Renter	
	Households	%	Households	%
1 person	1,368	15.9%	1626	24.7%
2 persons	2,657	30.8%	1709	26.0%
3 persons	1,559	18.1%	1020	15.5%
4 persons	1,680	19.5%	999	15.2%
5 persons	787	9.1%	958	14.6%
6 persons	306	3.5%	170	2.6%
7 persons or more	264	3.1%	90	1.4%
Total Households	8,621	100%	6,572	100%

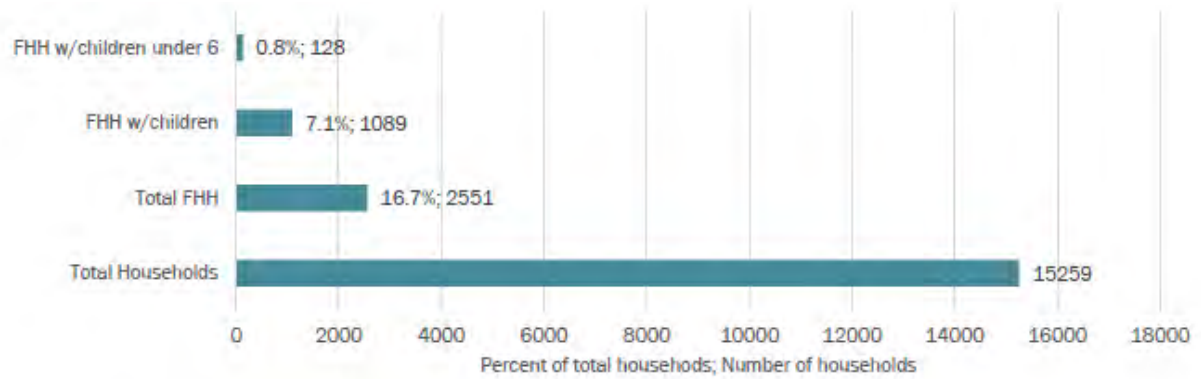
Source: U.S. Census 2013-2017 ACS, Table B25009

4. Female-Headed Households

Recent Census estimates reported that approximately 17% of Covina households are female-headed (compared to 14% in the SCAG region), about 7% are female-headed with children (compared to 7% in the SCAG region), and about 1% are female-headed with children under 6 (compared to 1% in the SCAG region) (**Table III-24**). About 4% of Covina's households are experiencing poverty, compared to 8 percent of households in the SCAG region. More than half of Covina's households living below the poverty line were female-headed (**Table III-25**). In 2018, a single individual under 65 was considered in poverty with an income below \$13,064/year while the threshold for a family consisting of 2 adults and 2 children was \$25,465/year.

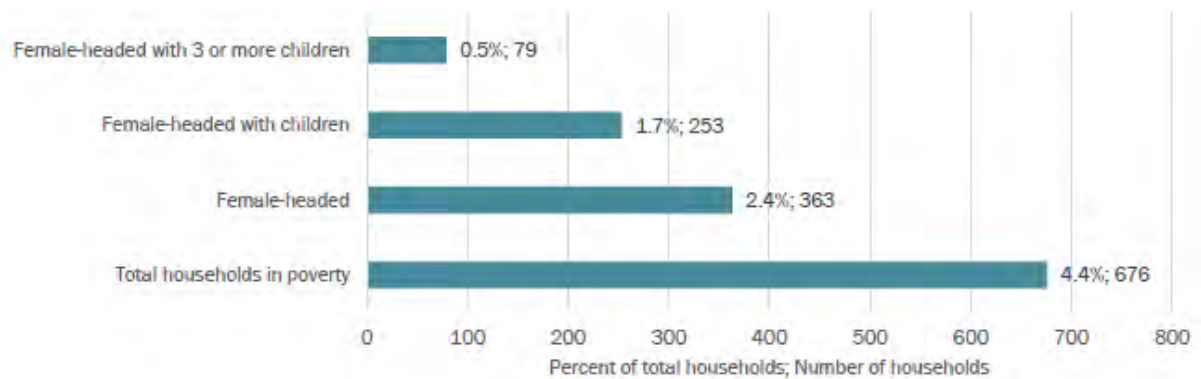
Female-headed households may face housing problems such as high cost burden and overcrowding due to issues such as income disparities and child care costs. Several of the programs described in Chapter VI help to address these housing needs, such as Program 1.3 (Section 8 Rental Assistance), Program 2.3 (Accessory Dwelling Units) and Program 2.4 (Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households). In addition to City programs, private organizations such as the East San Gabriel Valley YMCA offer programs that assist female-headed households such as child and after school care, youth sports activities, and summer day camps.

**Table III-24
Female Headed Households –
Covina**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

**Table III-25
Households by Poverty Status –
Covina**



American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates.

5. Farm Workers

Farm workers are traditionally defined as persons whose primary income is from seasonal agricultural work. According to recent Census Bureau estimates, about 36 Covina residents were employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting occupations (**Table III-26**).

**Table III-26
Agricultural Employment –
Covina**

Covina	Percent of total Covina workers:	SCAG Total	
36	0.15%	73,778	Total in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting
36	0.21%	44,979	Full-time, year-round in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting

American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates using groupings of NAICS and SOC codes.

The nearest major agricultural area to Covina is in San Bernardino County to the east. Since there are no major agricultural operations within Covina and housing costs are significantly lower in the Inland Empire, there is not a significant need for farmworker housing in the city. Programs described in Chapter VI that help to address the housing needs of persons with extremely low incomes, such as Program 1.3 (Section 8 Rental Assistance), Program 2.3 (Accessory Dwelling Units) and Program 2.4 (Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households), also assist any farm workers who may reside in Covina.

6. Homeless Persons

Homelessness is a continuing problem throughout California and urban areas nationwide. During the past two decades, an increasing number of single persons have remained homeless year after year and have become the most visible of all homeless persons. Other persons (particularly families) have experienced shorter periods of homelessness. However, they are often replaced by other families and individuals in a seemingly endless cycle of homelessness.

The homeless count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in 2020 estimated that there were 58,936 homeless persons Los Angeles County. These include families that might be displaced through evictions, women and children displaced through abusive family life, persons with substance abuse problems, veterans, or persons with serious mental illness. Covina is located within the San Gabriel Valley Service Planning Area (SPA 3), which had a 2020 homeless estimate of 5,082 people. LAHSA estimated that there were 91 homeless persons in Covina in 2020.³ The 2022 LAHSA survey found that the number of homeless persons in Covina had declined to 52. Of the unsheltered persons counted in 2022, 51% were reported to be on the street, 20% were living in RVs, 18% were living in cars or vans, and 9% were living in makeshift shelters.

³ <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=5201-homelessness-statistics-by-city.pdf>

In 1995 the San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness was created to help the region develop a strong regional response to the needs of the growing homeless population. The Consortium has a focus on facilitating partnerships, educating the community and member agencies, and advocating for appropriate services. In 2019, the Consortium reset its direction to a more concentrated effort to support and build capacity for local service providers. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) is another regional agency that also addresses regional homelessness issues. As a member agency in the San Gabriel Valley COG, Covina cooperates with its sister cities to address the issue of homelessness.

The Covina Housing Authority owns and operates a seven-bed transitional house for homeless women and children, offering free accommodation to families, with case management and program oversight provided by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. In addition, the YWCA San Gabriel Valley operates an 11-unit domestic violence shelter in Covina, offering a combination of shelter and transitional housing beds.

The City of Covina is continuing to work cooperatively with the County and other San Gabriel Valley cities to facilitate the establishment of additional facilities and services to address the needs of the homeless population. In 2022 the City authorized the leasing of City-owned land to the Covina Housing Authority for the purpose of developing a Navigation center that will assist those experiencing homelessness and also provide “wrap around services.” The City is continuing to work cooperatively with the Housing Authority on the design and construction of the Navigation Center. In June 2022, the City executed a 50-year property lease agreement with Covina Housing Authority for two parcels located at 534 North Barranca Avenue and 601 block of East San Bernardino Road (APN: 8429-009-900 and 8429-009-024), and for the future navigation center. In September 2022 the City received a grant from the San Gabriel Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) through its Homeless Housing Pilot Program for technical assistance including a design plan for a 30-bed homeless shelter with support services such as counseling related to alcohol and drug addiction, domestic abuse, jobs, health care and mental health; project management; and cost estimation for development and maintenance. Completion of the design plan is anticipated by December 2023.

F. Assisted Housing at Risk of Conversion

This section identifies residential projects in Covina that are under an affordability restriction, along with those housing projects that are at risk of losing their low-income affordability restrictions within the ten-year period from 2021 to 2031. This information is used in establishing quantified objectives for units that can be conserved during this planning period. The inventory includes all units that have been assisted under any Federal, State or local programs.

Affordable housing projects in Covina are summarized in **Table III-27**. Two of these projects are at risk of conversion to market rate during the 2021-2031 time period.

**Table III-27
Affordable Housing Developments –
Covina**

Name	Location	Assisted Units	Total Units	Program	Expiration Date	Owner
Village Green	152 E. Covina Blvd.	140	140	RDA	2060	Profit motivated
Smith Family Trust Apts.	227 N. Citrus Avenue	12	12	RDA	2027	Profit motivated
Las Palmas Apts.	777 W. Covina Blvd.	10	103	RDA	2025	Profit motivated
Center Street Apts.	236 W. Center Street	2	10	RDA	2064	Profit motivated
Cienega Gardens	1211 N Lyman Ave	178	180	LIHTC	2057	Profit motivated
Covina Gardens	200 W Rowland St	89	90	RDA bond	2065	Profit motivated
Totals		431	535			

Sources: City of Covina, 2021

Smith Family Trust Apartments

In 1994 the Covina Redevelopment Agency approved a Participation Agreement with Smith Family Trust for the provision of 12 units for very-low-income seniors. In 2010 the Redevelopment Agency facilitated the sale of the building at 223 N. Citrus Avenue from Smith Family Trust to Casa Moreno Grill, LLC. The affordability covenant on this affordable housing runs until August 12, 2027.

Las Palmas Apartments

In 1995 the Covina Redevelopment Agency approved a rehabilitation agreement with the property owner for 103 apartment units at 777 W. Covina Boulevard. The Agency provided \$150,000 for the purchase of long-term affordability covenants on 10 units at 80% AMI for 30 years. The affordability covenants extend to December 31, 2025.

Preservation and Replacement Alternatives

Options for preserving or replacing at-risk units are described below. The cost to preserve affordable multiple-family housing depends on market rents, availability of funding sources, and the administrative capacity of housing organizations.

Project Acquisition

The cost to acquire the 22 at-risk units is estimated to be approximately \$4 million to \$5 million but will depend on market conditions, property conditions, and other factors.

Rental Subsidies

The third option for preserving affordable units is to provide rental assistance. Rent subsidies could be structured similar to the Section 8 program, where HUD pays the difference between what tenants can afford (defined as 30% of household income) and HUD's estimates of the fair market rent. The feasibility of this alternative is highly dependent upon the availability of reliable funding sources necessary to make rent subsidies and the willingness of property owners to participate in the program. The cost of subsidizing rents

for 22 at-risk units is estimated to be approximately \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year based upon fair market rents and affordability levels.

Construction of Replacement Units

The construction of new low-income housing units is a costly means of replacing the at-risk units should they be converted to market-rate units. The cost of developing housing depends upon a variety of factors, including density, unit size, location, land costs, and type of construction. Assuming an average construction cost of \$400,000 per unit (including the cost of land), the total cost of developing 22 new low-income units is estimated to be approximately \$8 million.

Resources for Preserving At-Risk Units

A variety of federal, state, and local programs are available to maintain affordability of at-risk units. After the State's elimination of redevelopment agencies, the City has no financial resources available for this purpose. Entities with the ability to acquire or manage affordable housing in the San Gabriel Valley include National CORE, the East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) and Thomas Safran & Associates.

G. Future Housing Needs

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is a key tool for local governments to plan for anticipated growth. The RHNA quantifies the anticipated need for housing within each jurisdiction for the 2021 to 2029 period, also referred to as the "6th cycle" in reference to the six RHNA cycles that have occurred since the comprehensive revision of State Housing Element law in 1980. Communities then determine how they will address this need through the process of updating the Housing Elements of their General Plans.

The 2021-2029 RHNA Plan was adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in March 2021. The need for housing is determined by the forecasted growth in households in a community as well as existing needs such as overpayment and overcrowding. The housing need for new households is adjusted to maintain a desirable level of vacancy to promote housing choice and mobility. An adjustment is also made to account for units expected to be lost due to demolition, natural disaster, or conversion to non-housing uses. Total housing need is then distributed among four income categories on the basis of the county's income distribution, with adjustments to avoid an over-concentration of lower-income households in any community. Additional detail regarding SCAG's methodology used to prepare the RHNA can be reviewed on SCAG's website at <https://scag.ca.gov/rhna>.

Covina's assigned share of regional housing need during the 2021-2029 planning period is 1,910 units. This need is distributed by income category as shown in **Table III-28**.

Table III-28
2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs –
Covina

Very Low*	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	Total
614	268	281	747	1,910

*Per State law, half of the very-low units are assumed to be in the extremely-low category
 Source: SCAG 2021

It should be noted that SCAG did not identify growth needs for the extremely-low-income category in the adopted RHNA. As provided in Assembly Bill (AB) 2634 of 2006, jurisdictions may determine their extremely-low-income need as one-half the need in the very-low category.

The inventory of land to accommodate the RHNA allocation is discussed in **Chapter IV - Resources and Opportunities**.

IV. RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of resources are available for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of housing in the City of Covina; however, the State's elimination of redevelopment agencies in 2011 significantly reduced those resources requiring the transfer of \$3,407,292 in Covina housing funds to the State. This chapter describes the major resources for addressing the City's housing needs, including land, financial assistance and administrative resources. Additionally, opportunities for energy conservation that can lower utility costs and increase housing affordability are addressed.

A. Land Resources

Section 65583(a)(3) of the *Government Code* requires Housing Elements to contain an inventory of land suitable for residential development, including vacant sites and sites having potential for redevelopment, and an analysis of the relationship of zoning and public facilities and services to these sites. A detailed analysis of vacant land and underutilized parcels with potential for intensification and/or reuse is provided in Appendix B, which shows that the current land inventory is not sufficient to accommodate the City's RHNA allocation for the planning period in all income categories. Program 2.1 in the Housing Plan (Chapter VI) describes actions the City will take to address this issue.

A discussion of public facilities and infrastructure needed to serve future development is contained in Section V. B, Non-Governmental Constraints. There are currently no known service limitations that would preclude the level of development described in the RHNA, although developers will be required to pay fees or construct public improvements prior to or concurrent with development.

B. Financial and Administrative Resources

1. State and Federal Resources

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Federal funding for housing programs is available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Covina participates in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and receives its allocation of CDBG funds through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA). The CDBG program is very flexible in that the funds can be used for a wide range of activities. The eligible activities include, but are not limited to, acquisition and/or disposition of real property, public facilities and improvements, relocation, rehabilitation and construction of housing, homeownership assistance, public service programs, job creation programs, and clearance activities.

In Covina, the Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation Program relies upon CDBG funds residential repair and improvements for low- to moderate-income owner-occupied single-family detached homes and mobile homes. Covina's CDBG allocation for the FY 21-22 Program Year was \$295,465.

In 2017, the City contracted with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through Los Angeles County for a Section 108 loan in the amount of \$2.5 million. These funds are guaranteed by the CDBG program and will require a commitment of approximately 50% of the current CDBG allocation in payment annually for twenty years. The funds were used to fund the construction of the senior portion of the new Covina Senior and Community Center, which opened to the public on August 5, 2019.

Section 8 Rental Assistance – The City of Covina cooperates with the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), which administers the Section 8 Voucher Program. The Section 8 program provides rental assistance to low-income persons in need of affordable housing. There are two types of subsidies under Section 8: certificates and vouchers. A certificate pays the difference between the fair market rent and 30% of the tenant's monthly income, while a voucher allows a tenant to choose housing that may cost above the fair market figure, with the tenant paying the extra cost.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program - The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program was created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to provide an alternate method of funding low-and moderate-income housing. Each state receives a tax credit, based upon population, toward funding housing that meets program guidelines. The tax credits are then used to leverage private capital for new affordable housing construction or acquisition and rehabilitation.

2. Local Resources

Covina Housing Authority – In 2011 the State legislature dissolved all California Redevelopment Agencies, which terminated the 20 percent set-aside funding from Covina Redevelopment Agency that was used to assist City housing programs. The Covina Housing Authority assumed the housing functions and assets of the dissolved Covina Redevelopment Agency. The Housing Authority provides the following assistance.

- Transitional House for Homeless Women and Children - In 2004 the Covina Redevelopment Agency purchased a home to serve as a transitional house for families who have been homeless and are in need of re-establishing a home. The Covina Housing Authority assumed the duties and functions of the Redevelopment Agency upon its dissolution and manages and maintains the house. A contracted service provider, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. (CCLA) provides a comprehensive system of supportive services including case management, mainstream benefit linkage, income enhancement through employment resources and linkage, and permanent housing resources and placement. Upon entry, an Individual Service Plan is established for each household with stated goals to achieve in order to exit to permanent housing and increase their total income.

Housing is provided rent-free at the three-bedroom, three-bathroom residence. Two homeless families reside together in the home, sharing kitchen and living area facilities. The number to be served is estimated to be two adults and up to 5 children at any one time. The maximum length of stay of each family is 12 months and under certain circumstances, the length of stay may be extended. Under no circumstances will any family's length of stay exceed the maximum length of stay of 24-months for transitional housing. However, based on the needs of the individual families, four month's stay is the goal. The families are required to save a percentage of their income so that they will have funds to move on to permanent housing. Funding in FY 2021/22 will be continued with funding through the Covina Housing Authority, housing bond funds and City general funds.

- Domestic violence shelter (confidential location) - Under a FY 2010/11 agreement, the Covina Housing Authority subsidizes two transitional housing units in a local residence which houses victims of domestic violence, with income not to exceed 80 percent AMI, adjusted for household size. That subsidy is funded for a period of 10 years. In addition, funding was provided for rehabilitation of the residence and a covenant was recorded providing affordable rents for 7 transitional housing units (4 extremely-low-income, 2 very-low-income and 1 low-income) and 4 shelter units (3 extremely-low-income and 1 very-low-income) for 55 years.

Covina Plan to Address and Combat Homelessness - In 2017 the City of Covina received a \$30,000 grant from the County of Los Angeles to fund the preparation of a "City Plan to Combat Homelessness." Covina was one of 47 Los Angeles County cities that received a homeless planning grant. The City's grant funds were used to pay for a consultant to assist the City in preparing the *City Plan to Combat Homelessness*, which was completed in June 2018. This Plan:

- Assesses the resources currently available to the Covina to address the homeless challenge;

- Identifies opportunities for Covina to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and neighboring cities on initiatives to address homelessness;
- Identifies how Covina can coordinate efforts and resources to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and neighboring cities to achieve mutual goals; and
- establishes goals and supporting strategies and is available on the City website.

Measure H funding - The voters in Los Angeles County passed Measure H on March 7, 2017. The measure approved a quarter-cent sales tax to be collected for ten years which will produce approximately \$355 million each year to combat homelessness. The tax proceeds are deposited to a special account, created and maintained by Los Angeles County. The Impartial Analysis of Measure H on the ballot, by the Los Angeles County Counsel stated that “proceeds from the Tax will be used to generate ongoing funding to prevent and combat homelessness within Los Angeles County, including funding mental health, substance abuse treatment, health care, education, job training, rental and housing subsidies, case management and services, emergency and affordable housing, transportation, outreach, prevention, and supportive services for homeless children, families, foster youth, veterans, battered women, seniors, disabled individuals, and other homeless adults, consistent with the strategies developed through the Homeless Initiative adopted by the Board, and as otherwise directed by the Board to address the causes and effects of homelessness.”

In February 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved 47 strategies to combat homelessness. Seventeen of those strategies are to be targeted with Measure H funds, along with four new strategies.

Since adoption of the Plan, the City of Covina has applied for two Measure H grants through the County. The City has been awarded a Priority 1 grant to identify housing and work with discharge planners for 5150 holds in local hospitals, and a Priority 2 grant. The Priority 2 grant is a multi-city grant with the cities of Azusa, Glendora, Duarte, and West Covina. West Covina will be the fiscal agent, and the grant provides for five housing navigators, each housed in one of the cities, to provide services to homeless persons. The Priority 2 grant also requires matching funds by the cities.

Mortgage Credit Certificates – The MCC Program offers qualified first-time homebuyers a federal income tax credit. The federal credit can reduce potential federal income tax liability, creating additional net spendable income for qualified first-time homebuyers to possibly use toward their monthly mortgage payment. This MCC Program enables qualified first-time homebuyers to convert a portion of their annual mortgage interest into a direct dollar for dollar tax credit on their U.S. individual income tax returns. The qualified homebuyer is awarded a tax credit of up to 20% of the annual interest paid on the mortgage loan. The remaining 80% of the mortgage interest will continue to qualify as an itemized tax deduction. Covina is a participating city in the County-run MCC program. As of 2021 the maximum annual income for households with 1-2 persons is \$135,120 while for households of 3 or more persons the income limit is \$157,640.⁴

⁴ <https://www.lacdc.org/for-homeowners/homebuyer/mortgage-credit-certificate-program>

Home Ownership Program – The Home Ownership Program (HOP) provides no-interest loans to low-income homebuyers who have not owned a home in the last three years. This program is administered by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (CDA). The maximum gross annual income for eligible participants is 80% of the median income for Los Angeles County. The sources of funds were the American Dream Down Payment Initiative and federal HOME funds. The HOP Second Trust Deed program provides up to 20% of the purchase price for down-payment and closing costs assistance up to \$85,000.

Southern California Home Financing Authority Programs – SCHFA is a joint powers authority between Los Angeles and Orange Counties formed in June 1988 to issue tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds for low- to moderate-income First-Time Homebuyers. This program makes buying a home more affordable for qualifying homebuyers by offering a competitive 30-year fixed rate loan and a grant for down-payment and closing costs assistance. The program is administered by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (CDA) and the Public Finance Division of the County of Orange. SCHFA does not lend money directly to homebuyers. Homebuyers must work directly with a participating lender. As of 2021 the maximum loan amount is \$510,400 and maximum annual income limits for Los Angeles County are \$135,120 for households with 1 or 2 persons and \$157,640 for households of 3 or more.⁵

Non-Profit Organizations – Non-profit organizations play a major role in the development of affordable housing in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (CDA) supplements its own efforts of producing affordable housing by entering into partnerships with private sector and non-profit developers and housing development corporations. For example, Jamboree Housing Corporation is the Managing General Partner of the Cienega Gardens affordable apartment project.

C. Energy Conservation Opportunities

As residential energy costs rise, the subsequent increasing utility costs reduce the affordability of housing. State of California Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings were established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The standards are codified in Title 24 of the *California Code of Regulations* and are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods. California's building efficiency standards (along with those for energy efficient appliances) have saved billions of dollars in electricity and natural gas costs.⁶

Title 24 sets forth mandatory energy standards and requires the adoption of an "energy budget" for all new residential buildings and additions to residential buildings. The standards specify energy saving design for lighting, walls, ceilings and floor installations, as well as heating and cooling equipment and systems, gas cooling devices, conservation standards and the use of non-depleting energy sources, such as solar energy. Residential

⁵ <https://www.lacdc.org/for-homeowners/homebuyer/southern-california-home-financing-authority>

⁶ California Energy Commission (<http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24>)

builders must comply with these standards while localities are responsible for enforcing the energy conservation regulations through the plan check and building inspection processes.

The City's website⁷ provides referrals for residents to energy conservation programs including:

- Free Energy Assessment Screening for Your Home (EASY) - EASY provides a whole house energy assessment to help homeowners identify opportunities that reduce energy usage and energy costs. Participating homes will receive a customized home report with project recommendations, information about incentive and rebate programs through local utility companies like So Cal Edison and So Cal Gas, and suggestions for immediate home improvement projects. EASY is a program of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and home assessments are conducted by members trained in building science.
- HERO Financing Program for Home Retrofits - The Home Energy Retrofit Opportunity (HERO) Financing Program will assist in funding energy efficiency projects for Covina homeowners. Through the HERO program, homeowners will work alongside contractors to identify home energy projects and products that are eligible for low-interest financing. The low interest loans are paid back as an additional line item on the home's property tax. There are no up-front costs.
- Savings by Design - This program is designed for non-residential new construction, renovation, and remodel projects. Savings by Design provides energy-efficient design ideas to primary decision-makers such as building owners, developers, architects, engineers, designers, contractors, and builders. A Savings by Design analysis provides detailed technical and financial assistance data that allows owners and design teams to make informed decisions regarding energy efficiency features. This approach offers the non-residential building industry a multi-faceted program designed to consistently serve the needs of the building community throughout California. Savings by Design encourages energy-efficient building design and construction practices, promoting the efficient use of energy by offering up-front design assistance supported by financial incentives based on project performance.
- PACE Financing Program for Commercial Properties - Upgrading or retrofitting buildings to use less energy and water or produce clean energy can lower operating costs while increasing property value. In an effort to make these energy improvements more attainable for property owners, Renovate America offers the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program. Unlike a traditional loan, PACE financing is paid back via an assessment on the property tax bill. PACE financing allows owners of commercial properties to finance up to 100% of the cost of installing energy-efficient, renewable energy and water-saving improvements

⁷ <https://covinaca.gov/publicworks/page/energy-conservation-rebate-programs>

and immediately enjoy the benefits of lower utility bills. PACE offers low fixed rates and extended terms of 5 to 20 years to help keep payments affordable.

- Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program - A rebate is available to residents that purchase a qualifying electric lawn mower. Residents that purchase a new, cordless electric lawn mower and scrap their old gas mower are eligible for a rebate based on the purchase price of the new mower. The on-line application is available at www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower. Rebates range from \$150 to \$250, depending on the purchase price of the new electric lawn mower. Over 20 electric lawn mower models qualify.

V. CONSTRAINTS

This chapter addresses potential constraints that can adversely affect the cost and supply of housing. Such constraints include governmental policies, regulations and standards, as well as non-governmental factors such as the cost of land and availability of financing. Local governments have only limited ability to reduce some of the most difficult constraints, including the cost of labor and materials, general economic conditions and the development decisions of landowners.

A. Governmental Constraints

Land use regulations are among the most important techniques used by local governments to protect public health and safety; however, they also have the potential to increase the cost of housing. Potential governmental constraints include land use controls, building codes and their enforcement, site improvement requirements, fees and other exactions, and local development processing and permit procedures.

Land use controls typically limit the density or intensity of development, potentially increasing the cost per unit. On-site and off-site improvements such as roads, water or wastewater systems flood control facilities, and other infrastructure increase development costs. Since the adoption of Proposition 13 by California voters in 1978, the reduction in local government property tax revenues has resulted in the shifting of a greater share of the cost of public facilities and services to development projects.

1. Land Use Plans and Regulations

General Plan

Each city and county in California must prepare a comprehensive, long-term General Plan to guide its future. The Land Use Element of the General Plan establishes the allowable location, type, density and intensity of uses within the various areas of the city. Under State law, the General Plan elements must be internally consistent and zoning must also be consistent with the General Plan. The Land Use Plan must be correlated with the Housing Element to provide suitable locations and densities for housing to meet the needs of the community.

Covina's Land Use Plan is comprised of nine land use categories, which include three residential, two commercial, and one industrial designations, as well as School, Park, and Open Space. The land use categories allowing residential use are summarized in **Table V-1**.

**Table V-1
Residential Land Use Categories –
Covina General Plan**

Land Use Designation	Density*	Typical Residential Uses
Low Density Residential (LDR)	0 – 6.0	Single-family detached homes, ADUs, group homes
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	6.1 – 14.0	Apartments, condominiums, townhouses, mobile homes, two or more single-family detached houses, single-family detached residence plus apartments, group homes, ADUs
High Density Residential (HDR)	14.1 – 22.0	Apartments, condominiums, townhouses, mobile homes, two or more single-family detached houses, a single-family detached residence and apartments, group homes, ADUs
Town Center Specific Plan (TCSP)	Up to 50	Residential and mixed uses as provided in the TCSP

Source: City of Covina General Plan Land Use Element, 2019.

* Density expressed in dwelling units per net acre.

Zoning Regulations

The City regulates the type, location, density, and scale of residential development through the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. Zoning regulations serve to implement the General Plan. The Zoning Ordinance establishes zoning districts and residential development standards for each district. A summary of the development standards for the zoning districts permitting residential development is provided in **Table V-2**.

The Zoning Ordinance also describes the types of land uses that are allowed in each zone. A summary of the types of housing permitted in each zoning district is provided in **Table V-3**. The Zoning Ordinance provides for a variety of housing types including single-family homes (both attached and detached), multi-family (both rental and condominiums), manufactured housing, special needs housing, group homes and accessory units.

**Table V-2
Residential Zoning Districts and Development Standards**

Zoning District	Min. Lot Area	Allowable Density ¹	Yard Setback Front/Side/Rear	Lot Width	Lot Depth	Height Limit	Max. Lot Coverage
A-1	2 ac	1du/ac	25' 20' 25'	300'	300'	35'	35%
A-2	2 ac	1du/ac	25' 20' 25'	300'	300'	35'	35%
E- ½	½ ac	2du/ ac	40' 15' 25'	100'	150'	35'	35%
E-1	1 ac	2du/ ac	60' 30' 30'	100'	150'	35'	35%
E-2 ½	2 ½ ac	1du/2.5 ac	60' 30' 30'	100'	150'	35'	35%
E-5	5 ac	1du/5 ac	60' 30' 30'	100'	150'	35'	35%
R-1- 20,000	20,000 sf	1du/20,000 sf	25' 10' 25'	100'	150'	35'	35%
R-1 -10,000	10,000 sf	1du/10,000 sf	25' 5' 25'	80'	110'	35'	35%
R-1- 8,500	8,500 sf	1du/8,500 sf	25' 5' 25'	70'	105'	35'	35%
R-1- 7,500	7,500 sf	1du/7,500 sf	25' 5' 25'	60'	100'	35'	35%
RD (Multi-Family)	7,200 sf	RD-number suffix ²	25' 5' 25'	60'	120'	35'	35-40%
R-TR	All existing mobile home parks have been granted CUPs, which establish development standards.						

Source: City of Covina, 2019.

1. Density expressed in dwelling units per net acre.

2. Suffix indicates minimum lot area per unit

**Table V-3
Allowable Residential Uses by Zoning District**

Use	Zoning District											
	A-1	A-2	E-1/2	E-1	E-2-1/2	E-5	R-1 20,000	R-1 10,000	R-1 8,500	R-1 7,500	RD	R-TP
Single-Family	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Multi-Family	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P
Residential Care (<= 6)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Residential Care >6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C	X
Emergency Shelter ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Low Barrier Navigation Center ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transitional Housing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Supportive Housing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
SRO/Boarding House ²	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	X
Manufactured Housing	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Residential Trailers ³	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

P = Permitted C = Conditionally Permitted X = Prohibited

Notes:

1. Emergency shelters and low barrier navigation centers are not currently addressed in the Zoning Ordinance (see Chapter V, Program 4.2)

2. Transitional and supportive housing are not currently addressed in the Zoning Ordinance, therefore standards default to State law (see Chapter V, Program 4.2)

3. See Municipal Code Sec. 17.04.594 (<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Covina/#!/Covina17/Covina1704.html#17.04.594>)

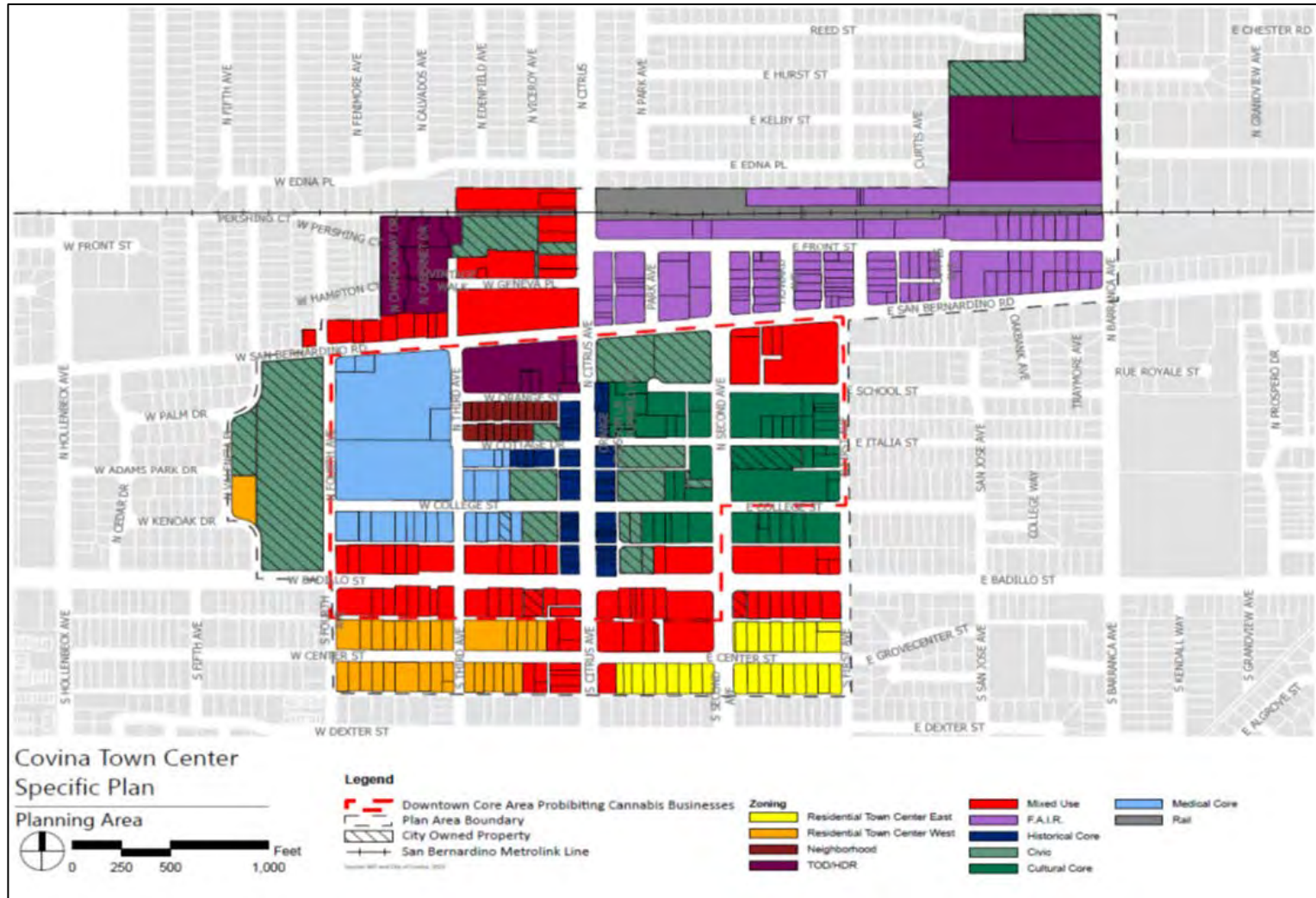
Source: City of Covina, 2020

Specific Plans

Town Center Specific Plan

The Covina Town Center Specific Plan (TCSP) establishes land use, transportation, infrastructure, economic development, and urban design strategies to revitalize the City core and streamline the development process while building upon the Metrolink's Covina Station assets. The Specific Plan outlines land use and mobility opportunities within the Town Center, as well as new building standards and guidelines. The TOD/HDR designation allows a density up to 50 units/acre within one-half mile of the Metrolink station and 40 units/acre elsewhere. The Plan seeks to create a memorable, accessible, and economically vibrant Town Center. The Specific Plan implements the Town Center Vision, outlines development standards and design guidelines to support the vision, and identifies action steps to achieve key objectives. The Specific Plan provides the necessary framework to guide future public and private investment in the Town Center over an approximately 20-year planning horizon.

Figure V-1
Town Center Specific Plan Area



In general, the development activity is stimulated and influenced by a range of tools, including:

- Development standards, design guidelines, and other regulatory tools and metrics
- Public infrastructure improvements
- A comprehensive and strategic set of policy, physical, and programmatic implementation actions
- TOD/HDR allow density to increase up to 50 units per acre within half a mile of Transit station (Covina Metrolink)
- Certification of an EIR for the Specific Plan, which provides CEQA documentation for new development within the Specific Plan area, thereby streamlining the permit review process.

Development standards in the TCSP are summarized in **Table V-4**. Residential densities in the TCSP are determined by land use designation and parcel size. Allowable densities for stand-alone residential development range up to 40 units per acre while densities up to 50 units per acre are permitted for mixed-use projects. Allowable residential uses within the TCSP are shown in **Table V-5**. In 2022 the TCSP was amended to expand residential development opportunities by allowing multi-family as a permitted use in the Civic district and live/work as a permitted use in the TOD/HDR, Civic and Cultural Core districts.

Table V-4
Residential Development Standards – Town Center Specific Plan

District	Maximum Density (units/acre)	Height Limit	FAR Limit
Residential-Town Center West	22	50 ft	na
Residential-Town Center East	22	50 ft	na
Neighborhood	22	35 ft	0.35
Transit Oriented Development/High Density Residential	40 ¹ 50 ²	50 ft	1.0 (stand-alone residential) 2.5 (mixed use)
Mixed Use	31 ¹ 40 ²	50 ft	1.0 (stand-alone residential) 2.0 (mixed use)
Food/Arts/Industrial/Residential (F.A.I.R.) ³	25	50 ft	2.0 (mixed use)
Historic Core	30 ¹ 40 ²	50 ft	2.0 (stand-alone residential) 2.5 (mixed use)
Civic	40	50 ft	0.75 (stand-alone residential) 1.0 (mixed use)
Cultural Core	30	50 ft	-

Notes:

1. Stand-alone residential

2. Mixed use

3. Increase to TOD/HDR density allowed by CUP

Source: City of Covina, Town Center Specific Plan, 2023

**Table V-5
Allowable Residential Uses – Town Center Specific Plan Districts**

Use	RTC-W	RTC-E	N	T/H	MU	F	HC	C	CC
Single-Family/Duplex	P	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-Family	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	P
Co-Living	X	X	X	X	X	P	X	X	X
Live/Work	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Residential Care (<= 6)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P
Emergency Shelter ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transitional Housing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Supportive Housing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Single Room Occupancy	X	X	X	X	C	P	C	X	X
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P
Mixed Use	X	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	X

P = Permitted C = Conditionally Permitted X = Prohibited

Notes:

1. Emergency shelters are not currently addressed in the Zoning Ordinance (see Chapter V, Program 4.2)

2. Transitional and supportive housing are not currently addressed in the Zoning Ordinance, therefore standards default to State law (see Chapter V, Program 4.2)

Source: City of Covina, Town Center Specific Plan, Table 3-2, 2020

Covina Forward Specific Plan

The approximately 10.7-acre Covina Forward Specific Plan (CFSP) is located northeast of the intersection of Citrus Avenue and Covina Boulevard. The CFSP is intended for development of a transit-oriented mixed-use development with a civic/community use component. Planning Area 1 includes a single-family attached residential component with 120 units at a maximum density of 22 units per acre with parking, an accessory common area, recreation facilities and other amenities. The intent of the CFSP is to provide for the orderly redevelopment of a vacant, prominent disused commercial property in a manner that addresses the community's needs for transit-oriented residential development, regional transportation facilities and civic/ community facilities.

Mixed Use Overlay Districts

To create additional opportunities for housing development, two new mixed-use overlay zoning districts were established in 2022 – the Mixed Use Overlay District (MUOD) and the Affordable Housing Mixed Use Overlay District (AHMUOD). These districts significantly expanded the City's capacity for new housing by allowing residential development in areas where only non-residential uses were previously allowed. The base zoning districts where new mixed-use opportunities were created include the following:

- C-2 (Neighborhood Shopping Center)
- C-3 (Central Business)
- C-3A (Regional or Community Shopping Center)
- C-4 (Commercial-Highway)

C-5 (Specified Highway)
C-P (Administrative and Professional Office)
M-1 (Light Manufacturing)
TC-C (Medical and Professional Office)

Locations of the MUOD and AHMUOD parcels are shown in **Figure V-2**.

Mixed Use Overlay District (MUOD)

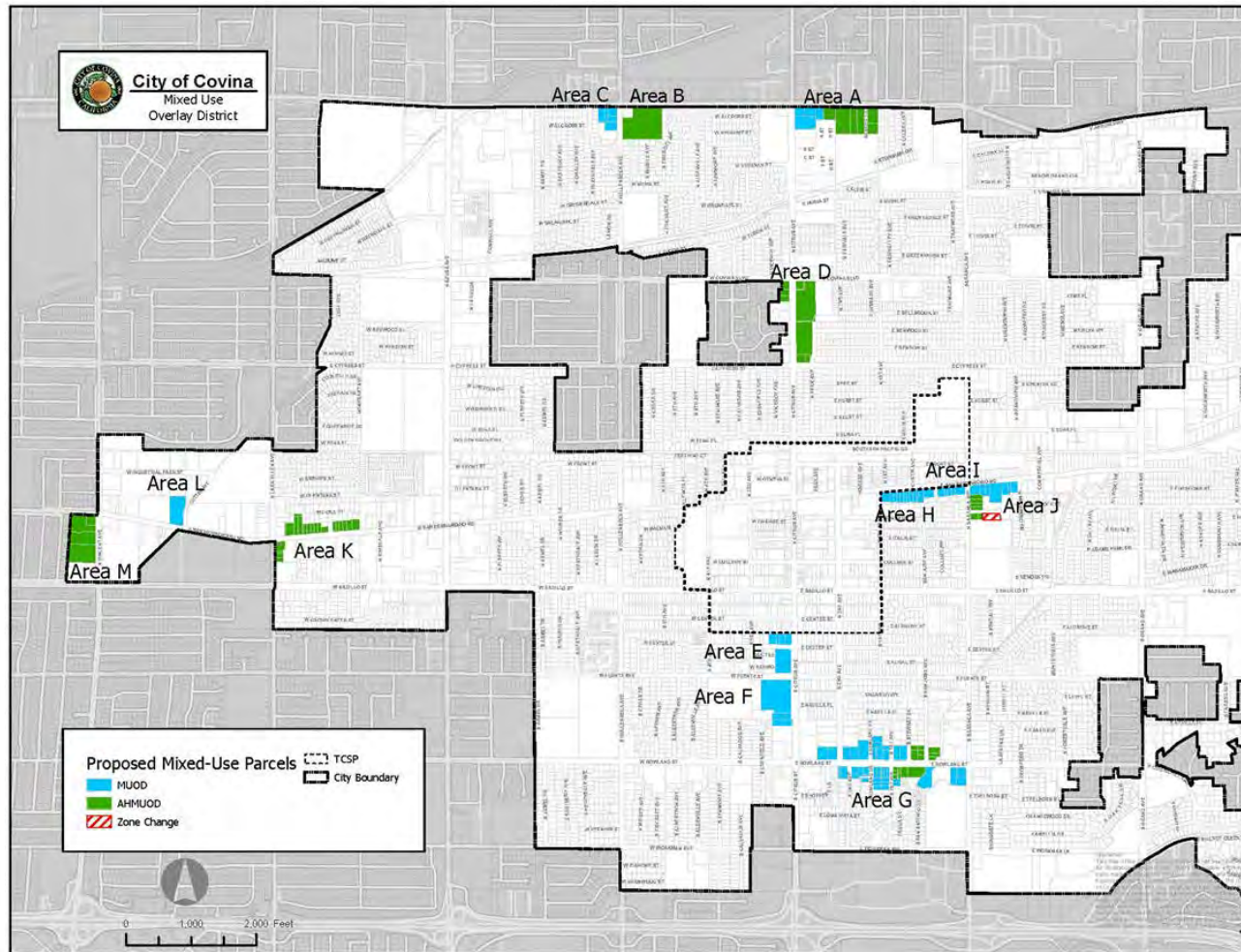
The MUOD encompasses approximately 85 parcels totaling about 38 acres. MUOD parcels were selected based on suitability for residential redevelopment including parcels with older buildings at least 40 years old that are at least 20,000 square feet in size, and are not located on major commercial corridors.

MUOD regulations allow residential units in either horizontal or vertical mixed-use development. Originally, the allowable density is 22-40 units/acre for parcels that are at least one acre in size and 14-22 units/acre for parcels smaller than one acre. In December 2023, the City amended the MUOD zoning regulations by eliminating the parcel size criteria to the density range. Therefore, the allowable density is 22-40 unit/acre, regardless of parcel size. Non-residential floor area is not included in the allowable density calculation. The height limit for mixed use projects is 50 feet, which can accommodate 4-story structures. Other objective standards for mixed-use projects include building orientation, private outdoor patios/terraces, location and screening of parking areas, landscaping, architectural features and amenities. Required off-street parking for the residential component of a mixed-use projects units is based on applicable multi-family parking standards (see **Table V-6**) but may be reduced based on shared parking with a project's commercial uses.

Affordable Housing Mixed Use Overlay District (AHMUOD)

The AHMUOD encompasses approximately 63 parcels totaling about 37 acres. The AHMUOD is similar to the MUOD except that stand-alone residential projects are also allowed, mixed-use projects must include at least 50% residential floor area, a minimum density of 20 units/acre is required, at least 10% of units must be deed-restricted for lower-income households, and projects that provide at least 20% of units for lower-income households are eligible for ministerial (by-right) approval. Originally, the allowable density is 22-40 units/acre for parcels that are at least one acre in size and 14-22 units/acre for parcels smaller than one acre. In December 2023, the City amended the AHMUOD zoning regulations by eliminating the parcel size criteria to the density range. Therefore, the allowable density is 22-40 unit/acre, regardless of parcel size. These densities may be exceeded consistent with State density bonus law. As discussed further in Appendix B, the AHMUOD parcels are included in the City's inventory of housing sites for purposes of demonstrating adequate capacity to accommodate the 2021-2029 RHNA allocation.

Figure V-2
Mixed Use Overlay District Areas



Effect of Zoning and Development Standards on Housing Supply and Affordability

Zoning regulations and development standards can affect the feasibility of development projects, particularly housing that is affordable to lower- and moderate-income households. The most significant of these standards is density. Higher densities generally result in lower per-unit land costs, thereby reducing overall development cost, although this is not always the case. For example, higher densities may require more expensive construction methods such as parking in structures or below-grade garages.

Pursuant to State law⁸ the “default density” for Covina is 30 dwelling units per acre. Default density refers to the density at which lower-income housing development is presumed to be feasible, although State law allows jurisdictions to propose alternative densities that are sufficient to facilitate affordable housing based on local conditions. Although appropriate zoning regulations are necessary for affordable housing to be feasible, it should be recognized that large public subsidies are also necessary to reduce costs to the level that lower-income households can afford, particularly in high-cost areas of Southern California.

The Town Center Specific Plan allows multi-family residential or mixed-use development at densities of 30 units/acre or more in the Transit Oriented Development/High Density Residential, Mixed-Use, Civic, Historic Core, and Cultural Core districts and is the most likely area of the city where new affordable housing development could occur. To ensure that TCSP development standards are effective in facilitating additional housing development, Program 4.6 includes a commitment to conduct a review TCSP regulations and if any standards are found to unreasonably restrict residential development, a TCSP amendment will be processed.

Accessory Dwelling Units

ADUs serve to augment resources for senior housing, caregivers, household employees, and other low- and moderate-income segments of the population. In recent years the State Legislature has adopted extensive revisions to ADU law, and the City’s ADU regulations (Municipal Code Chapter 17.69) were most recently updated in May 2022 to incorporate State law in effect at that time. The Municipal Code includes a provision that in the event of a conflict between State ADU laws and the City ordinance, State law shall prevail. Program 2.3 in Chapter VI includes a commitment to monitor future changes in ADU law annually and update City regulations as necessary to ensure consistency with State requirements.

To encourage ADU production the City also prepared an easy-to-read ADU Guidebook in 2021 that is being made available in multiple languages. The City publicizes the ADU Guidebook via the City’s website, newsletters, email distribution lists, social media, and the cable television channel.

⁸ Memo of June 20, 2012 from the California Department of Housing and Community Development regarding default densities.

Special Needs Housing

Persons with special needs include those with disabilities, the elderly, homeless persons needing emergency shelter, transitional or supportive housing, single room occupancy units, persons living in residential care facilities, and farmworkers. The City's provisions for these housing types are described below.

Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities

Both the federal Fair Housing Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act impose an affirmative duty on local governments to allow reasonable accommodation (i.e., modifications or exceptions) in their zoning laws and other land use regulations when necessary to afford disabled persons an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. The building codes adopted by the City incorporate accessibility standards contained in Title 24 of the California *Administrative Code*.

Compliance with building codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may increase the cost of housing production and can also impact the viability of rehabilitation of older properties required to be brought up to current code standards. However, these regulations provide minimum standards necessary to ensure the availability of safe and accessible housing.

Municipal Code §17.33.050 establishes procedures for reviewing and approving requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities consistent with current law. Requests for a reasonable accommodation are reviewed by the community development director who may, in his or her discretion, refer applications to the Planning Commission for consideration. The director, or the Planning Commission upon referral, may either grant, grant with modifications, or deny a request for reasonable accommodation in accordance with the following required findings:

Required Findings. The request for a reasonable accommodation shall be approved, or approved with conditions, if the reviewing authority finds that all of the following findings can be made:

1. The dwelling, which is the subject of the request for reasonable accommodation, will be used by a disabled person;
2. The requested accommodation is necessary to make housing available to a disabled person;
3. The requested accommodation will not impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the city; and
4. The requested accommodation will not require a fundamental alteration in the nature of the city's zoning ordinance.

These procedures are consistent with fair housing law and do not pose a constraint on persons with disabilities.

Housing for the Elderly

Senior housing developments are permitted in all residential zoning districts. A density bonus is also permitted for the construction of senior housing pursuant to *Government Code* §§65915-65918. The Zoning Ordinance is not considered to be a constraint to the development of senior housing because the regulations are the same as for other residential uses of the same type in the same zoning districts.

Emergency Shelters, Low Barrier Navigation Centers and Transitional/Supportive Housing

Emergency shelters. Emergency shelters are facilities that provide a safe alternative to the streets either in a shelter facility, or through the use of motel vouchers. Emergency shelter is short-term and usually for 30 days or less. State law requires jurisdictions to evaluate their need for shelters compared to available facilities to address the need. If existing shelter facilities are not sufficient to accommodate the need, jurisdictions must designate at least one zone where year-round shelters can be accommodated by-right subject to specified development standards. As noted in Chapter III – Housing Needs Assessment, the most recent homeless survey conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority estimated that there were 91 homeless persons in Covina. Municipal Code §17.33.030 establishes the Emergency Shelter Overlay District where emergency shelters with up to 100 beds are allowed by-right. Development standards include a minimum separation of 300 feet between emergency shelters and one parking space per four beds, plus one space for each staff member on duty. The overlay zone is approximately 4.9 acres in size, is owned by the City and is currently used for equipment and materials storage. This site has potential capacity for a 100-bed shelter and is located in close proximity to public transit and services needed by homeless persons.

In 2019, AB 139 modified the allowable parking requirements for emergency shelters, which now must be limited to sufficient parking to accommodate all staff working in the emergency shelter, provided that the standards do not require more parking for emergency shelters than other residential or commercial uses within the same zone. Program 4.2 includes an update to the City's parking standards for emergency shelters consistent with State law.

Low barrier navigation centers. AB 101 (2019) established requirements related to local regulation of *low barrier navigation centers*, which are defined as “Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelters focused on moving people into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter, and housing.” *Low Barrier* means best practices to reduce barriers to entry, and may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) The presence of partners if it is not a population-specific site, such as for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, women, or youth
- (2) Accommodation of residents' pets
- (3) The storage of possessions

- (4) Privacy, such as partitions around beds in a dormitory setting or in larger rooms containing more than two beds, or private rooms

Low barrier navigation centers meeting specified standards must be allowed by-right in areas zoned for mixed use and in nonresidential zones permitting multi-family uses. Municipal Code §17.33.040 establishes the following regulations for low barrier navigation centers consistent with current law.

1. It offers services to connect people to permanent housing through a services plan that identifies services staffing.
2. It is linked to a coordinated entry system, so that staff in the interim facility or staff who co-locate in the facility may conduct assessments and provide services to connect people to permanent housing. "Coordinated entry system" means a centralized or coordinated assessment system developed pursuant to Section 576.400(d) or Section 578.7(a)(8), as applicable, of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as those sections read on January 1, 2020, and any related requirements, designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and referrals.
3. It complies with Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 8255) of Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
4. It has a system for entering information regarding client stays, client demographics, client income, and exit destination through the local Homeless Management Information System as defined by Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
5. Low barrier navigation centers shall also comply with the standards established for emergency shelters in CMC §17.33.030.

Transitional and supportive housing. Transitional housing provides longer-term shelter, typically up to two years, while supportive housing may have no occupancy time limit. Entities that operate transitional and supportive housing generally require that residents participate in a structured program to work toward established goals so that they can move on to permanent housing and may include supportive services such as counseling.

State law also requires that transitional and supportive housing be regulated as a residential use that is subject only to the same requirements and procedures as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. AB 2162 of 2018 (Government Code Section 65583(c)(3)) further requires that supportive housing development projects meeting specific criteria must be allowed by-right in all zones allowing multi-family development, including mixed-use and nonresidential zones. Municipal Code Chapter 17.04 establishes regulations for transitional housing and supportive housing consistent with current law.

Single Room Occupancy

Single room occupancy facilities are small studio-type units and are a permitted use (called *boarding houses*) in the RD (Multi-Family) zoning district. SROs are also a permitted use in the FAIR district of the TCSP and a conditional use in the Mixed Use and Historic Core districts. The City approved SROs at the Moreno (previously Smith) Senior Housing units, which are under an affordability covenant.

Residential Care Facilities

Residential care facilities refer to any family home, group home, or rehabilitation facility that provides non-medical care to persons in need of personal services, protection, supervision, assistance, guidance, or training essential for daily living. In accordance with State law, residential care homes that serve six or fewer persons are permitted according to the same standards as apply to other residential uses.

Due to the unique characteristics of larger (more than six persons) residential care facilities, most jurisdictions require a conditional use permit to ensure neighborhood compatibility in the siting of these facilities. Covina allows large residential care facilities for seven or more persons subject to approval of a conditional use permit in the RD Multiple-Family Residential Zone. Conditional use permit applications are reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission. Required findings for conditional use permit approval are established in Municipal Code Chapter 17.62 as follows:

- A. That the site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the use and all yards, spaces, walls and fences, parking, loading, landscaping and other features required by this title to adjust the use with land and uses in the neighborhood;
- B. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use;
- C. That the proposed use will have no adverse effect on abutting property or the permitted use thereof;
- D. That the conditions stated in the decision are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Such conditions may include:
 1. Regulation of use,
 2. Special yards, spaces and buffers,
 3. Fences and walls,
 4. Surfacing of parking areas subject to city specifications,
 5. Requiring street, service road or alley dedications and improvements or appropriate bonds,

6. Regulation of points of vehicular ingress and egress,
7. Regulation of signs,
8. Requiring landscaping and maintenance thereof,
9. Requiring maintenance of the grounds,
10. Regulation of noise, vibration, odors, etc.,
11. Regulation of time for certain activities,
12. Time period within which the proposed use shall be developed,
13. Duration of use,
14. And such other conditions as will make possible the development of the city in an orderly and efficient manner and conformity with the intent and purposes set forth in this title.

According to the California Department of Social Services, there are numerous small residential care facilities and several large facilities in Covina, although no new applications for large residential care facilities have been received in recent years. In order to improve approval certainty and reduce potential constraints on persons with disabilities, Program 4.2 is included in the Housing Plan to develop mitigating strategies to minimize potential constraints and facilitate development of large group homes.

Definition of Family

The Zoning Ordinance defines *family* as “an individual or two or more persons living together as a single housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit.” *Single housekeeping unit* means “a traditional family or the functional equivalent of a traditional family, whose members are a nontransient interactive group of one or more persons, where if consisting of more than one person, such persons jointly occupy a single dwelling unit, jointly use common areas, share household activities and responsibilities (e.g., meals, chores, and expenses), and where, if the unit is rented, leased, or subleased, all adult members living on the premises jointly agree to occupy and be responsible for the entire premises of the dwelling unit under a single written rental agreement or lease and the makeup of the household occupying the unit is determined by the residents of the unit rather than the landlord or property manager.” To ensure that this definition does not result in an unreasonable constraint to housing for persons with disabilities, the City will process a Code amendment to update this definition consistent with current fair housing law (Program 4.2).

Farm Worker Housing

As discussed in **Chapter III. Housing Needs Assessment**, since the City of Covina is not near major agricultural areas there is not a significant need for permanent farm worker housing. The City’s overall efforts to provide and maintain affordable housing opportunities will help to support the limited number of seasonal farm workers that may reside in Covina. However, commercial agriculture is a permitted use in the A-1 and A-2 zones; therefore,

pursuant to the Employee Housing Act (Government Code 17021.5 and 17021.6) qualifying employee housing with up to 12 units or 36 beds is allowed as an agricultural use in these zones. In addition, employee housing for up to six persons is deemed a single-family use.

Off-Street Parking Requirements

The City's parking requirements for residential uses are summarized in **Table V-6** (outside the Town Center Specific Plan area) and **Table V-7** (within the Town Center Specific Plan).

Table V-6
Residential Parking Requirements: Outside TCSP

Type of Unit	Required Off-Street Parking*
Single-Family Detached	2-car garage
Duplex	2-car garage for each unit
Trailer Parks	1 for each trailer space plus 1 for each 10 spaces separate from the trailer spaces
Accessory Residential Units	1 for each unit, unless an exception applies pursuant to California Government Code §65852.2(d), or successor statute
Multi-Family Dwellings, Condominiums, and Other Attached Dwellings**	
Bachelor	1 covered space
1 bedroom	1 covered space
2 bedrooms	2 covered spaces
3 or more bedrooms	2 covered spaces plus one-half space for each bedroom in excess of 3
Rooming Houses	1 for each sleeping room or 1 for each 2 beds, whichever is greater

*Reduced parking is allowed for projects that provide affordable housing pursuant to state Density Bonus law.

** In addition, guest parking shall be provided at a ratio of 1 space for each 5 units.

Source: Covina Zoning Ordinance Chapter 17.72

Table V-7
Residential Parking Requirements: TCSP

Type of Unit	Required Off-Street Parking*
Stand-alone residential	
Single-family (attached or detached)	2 covered spaces per unit
Multi-family	SRO/Studio/1-Bedroom: 1 space per unit plus 1 guest space per each 4 units 2- to 4-Bedroom: 2 spaces per unit plus 1 guest space per each 4 units
Mixed-use	
SRO/Studio/1-Bedroom	1 space per unit plus 1 guest space per each 4 units
2- to 4-Bedroom	2 spaces per unit plus 1 guest space per each 4 units
Live/work	Up to 2-bedrooms: 1 space per unit plus 1 guest space per each 4 units 2+ bedroom unit: 1 space per unit plus 1 guest space per unit

*Reduced parking is allowed for projects that provide affordable housing pursuant to state Density Bonus law.

Source: City of Covina, Town Center Specific Plan

As shown in these tables, off-street parking standards within the Town Center Specific Plan area are significantly lower than elsewhere in the city due to the availability of high-quality transit, including the Covina Metrolink Station and bus service.

In addition to the lower parking requirements, the TCSP allows reductions to off-street parking based upon a parking demand study, and residential guest parking requirements in mixed-use projects may be satisfied through shared parking with commercial uses.

Available transit reduces the need for residents in the TCSP area to rely on private automobiles for travel. The majority of new residential development in Covina is expected to occur in the TCSP area, and lower off-street parking requirements help to reduce the cost of housing and also reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions consistent with State and regional planning objectives.

These parking standards do not act as a significant constraint on the cost and supply of housing.

Density Bonus

Under Government Code Section 65915-65918, a density increase over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density plus other incentives are available to developers who agree to construct housing developments with units affordable to low- or moderate-income households or senior housing. Municipal Code §17.33.020 establishes density bonus regulations consistent with current State law.

Mobile Homes/Manufactured Housing

There is often an economy of scale in manufacturing homes in a factory rather than on site, thereby reducing cost. State law precludes local governments from prohibiting the installation of mobile or manufactured homes on permanent foundations on single-family lots. The Municipal Code allows manufactured housing in all residential zones provided the installation complies with the site development standards for the applicable zoning district. Mobile home parks and residential trailers are a permitted use within the R-TP (Trailer and Mobile Home Park) district. There are five mobile home parks in Covina.

Inclusionary Housing

Inclusionary housing refers to local requirements for the provision of affordable units as part of residential developments. No inclusionary requirements have been adopted in Covina.

Short-Term Rentals

No regulations have been adopted to prohibit or restrict short-term rental of residential units.

Building Codes and Enforcement

State law prohibits the imposition of building standards that are not necessitated by local geographic, climatic or topographic conditions and requires that local governments making changes or modifications in building standards must report such changes to the Department of Housing and Community Development and file an expressed finding that the change is needed.

The City has adopted the most recent California Building Standards Codes (California Code of Regulations, Title 24), which are intended to protect the public health, safety and welfare. No additional regulations have been imposed by the City that would unnecessarily add to housing costs.

New developments are reviewed through a plan check process to ensure compliance with building codes, and building inspectors monitor construction to confirm that it conforms to the approved plans. If a complaint of a Code violation is received regarding existing buildings, a City inspector will investigate whether a violation exists. If Code violations are noted, City staff works cooperatively with the property owner and/or builder to provide guidance regarding necessary actions to ensure compliance.

2. Development Processing Procedures

State Planning and Zoning Law establishes the legal framework for the review and approval of land uses and development. The Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances (Titles 16 and 17 of the Municipal Code) guide the City's development review process to minimize the time required to obtain permits while ensuring that developments comply with applicable regulations.

Review Process for Residential Development

Review processes are characterized as either *ministerial* or *discretionary*. A ministerial review process, also referred to as development *by-right*, is limited to determining whether an application complies with objective standards and does not involve subjective judgment on the part of the decision-maker. Ministerial approvals are exempt from CEQA. Discretionary decisions involve some exercise of judgment on the part of the decision-maker and are subject to CEQA review.

Site Plan Review

Overview. Site plan review pursuant to Chapter 17.64 is required in all zoning districts prior to the construction, remodeling or expansion of any building, except for minor work such as additions to single-family residential structures of less than 500 square feet or 900 square feet in any three-year period; or minor alterations and remodeling of multiple-family buildings that do not increase the floor area.

Pre-application conference. A conference with the applicant is required prior to submission of a site plan review application. The purpose of this conference is to acquaint the applicant with applicable standards in order to avoid delays.

Application. The application package requires a site plan, building elevations and floor plans, and a building materials and color board showing samples of roof, exterior wall and trim materials and colors for the proposed building unless determined to be unnecessary by the Community Development Director.

Review and approval. Most site plan reviews for residential projects are approved administratively by the Director without a public hearing. The Planning Commission

considers site plan review applications if the project involves more than 500 square feet of additional floor area and is located in a commercial, industrial or multiple-family residential zone district located adjacent to or across any street, railroad, public right-of-way, drainage channel or easement from an agricultural, estate or single-family residential zone district.

Some recent residential projects have been proposed at densities lower than the maximum allowed, and some projects have proposed densities lower than the minimum allowed under the zoning standards when lower densities are better suited to market conditions. While higher densities can result in lower per-unit housing costs, this is not always the case. For example, a recent real estate market study in San Diego County examined the relative financial feasibility of three hypothetical multi-family developments at densities of 20, 24 and 30 units per acre and found that a density range of 20 to 24 units/acre was the most financially feasible for affordable housing. It is recognized that development feasibility is affected by a variety of factors and different economic conditions may exist in other locations. However, it must be recognized that higher density does not necessarily result in improvements to financial feasibility and affordability.

Findings for Approval. Findings required for approval of a site plan include:

- Compliance with the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, applicable design guidelines, transportation demand management regulations, utility and street improvement requirements, and any applicable specific plans or guidelines
- The project is designed so that traffic congestion is avoided, pedestrian and vehicular safety and welfare are protected, and there will be no adverse effect on surrounding property
- The project design is harmonious, consistent and complete within itself and functionally and visually compatible with neighboring structures and the area in which it is located
- The development will constitute an adequate environment for the intended use by sustaining the desirability and stability of the neighborhood and community
- Lighting is arranged to reflect light away from adjoining properties
- Signs will not interfere with traffic or limit visibility

To reduce potential constraints on the cost and supply of housing, Program 4.3 is included in the Housing Plan to expand the use of administrative review and objective standards.

Conditional Use Permits

Overview. As shown previously in **Table V-3**, the only type of residential use in conventional residential zoning districts requiring a conditional use permit is large residential care facilities serving seven or more residents. In the Town Center Specific Plan, SROs are subject to a CUP in the Mixed Use and Historic Core districts (TCSP Table 3-2).

CUP requirements are established in Sec. 17.62.120 of the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission must make the following findings for CUP approval.

A. That the site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the use and all yards, spaces, walls and fences, parking, loading, landscaping and other features required by this title to adjust the use with land and uses in the neighborhood;

B. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use;

C. That the proposed use will have no adverse effect on abutting property or the permitted use thereof;

D. That the conditions stated in the decision are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Such conditions may include:

- 1. Regulation of use,*
- 2. Special yards, spaces and buffers,*
- 3. Fences and walls,*
- 4. Surfacing of parking areas subject to city specifications,*
- 5. Requiring street, service road or alley dedications and improvements or appropriate bonds,*
- 6. Regulation of points of vehicular ingress and egress,*
- 7. Regulation of signs,*
- 8. Requiring landscaping and maintenance thereof,*
- 9. Requiring maintenance of the grounds,*
- 10. Regulation of noise, vibration, odors, etc.,*
- 11. Regulation of time for certain activities,*
- 12. Time period within which the proposed use shall be developed,*
- 13. Duration of use,*
- 14. And such other conditions as will make possible the development of the city in an orderly and efficient manner and conformity with the intent and purposes set forth in this title.*

The CUP process is only applicable in limited situations and does not pose an unusual constraint to those types of housing.

Legislative Land Use Approvals

Under State law, approvals such as General Plan and Zoning Code amendments, Specific Plans and Development Agreements are considered legislative actions that by law must be reviewed and approved by the City Council. In addition to State requirements, zoning amendments are subject to the provisions of Chapter 17.80 of the Zoning Ordinance. Such actions also typically require CEQA review, which can require a substantial amount of time. Cities have limited control over the time required for these types of actions.

Permit Processing Time

Permit processing times depend on the nature and complexity of the project. When a project involves two or more separate approvals, such as a zone change and site plan review, the applications are processed concurrently in order to minimize the overall time required.

Projects that are reviewed and approved by the Director, such as site plan reviews and administrative CUPs, typically require four to eight weeks to process. More complex projects such as subdivision maps and zone changes, which are subject to City Council approval, typically require at least five months to process and are affected by the time required for CEQA compliance. Projects involving an EIR may require a year or more to complete. **Table V-8** identifies the review authority for land use permits and other entitlements, as well as the typical processing time for each type of application. The typical planning review and approval time for projects that do not include a subdivision or zone change are approximately 1 to 2 months for single-family homes and 3 months for apartment projects. Projects involving a subdivision or zoning amendment typically require 9 to 12 months.

Table V-8
Review Authority and Typical Processing Time for Residential Development

Type of Permit or Decision	Est. Processing Time	Typical No. of Meetings	Director	Planning Commission	City Council
Site Plan Review (Administrative)	4-8 weeks	0	Decision	Appeal	Appeal
Site Plan Review (Planning Commission)	10-12 weeks	1		Decision	Appeal
Administrative Conditional Use Permit	4-8 weeks	0	Decision	Appeal	Appeal
Conditional Use Permit	12+ weeks	1		Decision	Appeal
Minor Variance	4 weeks	0	Decision	Appeal	Appeal
Variance	12+ weeks	1		Decision	Appeal
General Plan Amendment	20+ weeks	2		Recommend	Decision
Specific Plan or Amendment	20+ weeks	2		Recommend	Decision
Zoning Map or Code Amendment	20+ weeks	2		Recommend	Decision
Tentative Map	52+ weeks	2		Recommend	Decision

Source: City of Covina, 2021

These procedures and timelines are typical of most jurisdictions in the San Gabriel Valley, are consistent with due process and State requirements, and do not act as a substantial constraint to housing development.

One of the City's purposes in preparing the Town Center Specific Plan was to simplify and expedite the development process through the preparation of a Program EIR for the TCSP. Using the streamlined review provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), development projects that are consistent with the TCSP can avoid the expensive and time-consuming process of site-specific CEQA review.

In addition, the City has adopted traffic analysis standards to implement SB 743 related to the use of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) rather than level of service (LOS) for purposes of CEQA analysis of transportation impacts. These new standards simplify the CEQA review process and help to reduce residential development processing time and cost.

Typical time from project approval to submittal of application for building permits varies widely depending on the type and size of the project. For example, building permit application submittal for a single-family home typically occurs within a few weeks of planning approval while building permit applications for large multi-family or mixed-use development typically occur 3 to 6 months after planning approval. This time period is not under the City's control. The City also offers applicants the opportunity to submit for plan check in advance of project approval with the understanding that no building permit may be issued until the project receives planning approval.

Streamlined Review

Under some circumstances development applications may be eligible for "streamlined ministerial review" such as pursuant to SB 35 (Government Code Sec. 65913.4). Qualifying projects are subject to specified procedures and development standards intended to simplify and expedite the development process. The City prepared written guidelines including Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ), forms and a checklist available online and at City Hall to assist applicants and City staff in complying with these requirements (see Chapter VI, Program 2.4).

Requests to Develop at Lower Densities

Due to high land values, developers do not typically request approval for development at lower densities than anticipated in the sites inventory (Appendix B).

3. Development Fees and Improvement Requirements

After the passage of Proposition 13 and its limitation on local government property tax revenues, cities and counties have faced increasing difficulty in providing adequate public services and facilities to serve their residents. One of the main consequences of Proposition 13 has been a shift in funding of new infrastructure from general tax revenues to development impact fees and exactions. The City requires developers to provide on-site and off-site improvements necessary to serve their projects. Such improvements may include water, sewer and other utility extensions, street construction and traffic control device installation that are reasonably related to the project. Dedication of land or in-lieu fees may also be required of a project for rights-of-way, transit facilities, recreational facilities and school sites, consistent with the Subdivision Map Act.

Development Fees

State law limits fees charged for development permit processing to the reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. Various fees and assessments are charged by the City and other public agencies to cover the costs of processing permit applications and providing services and facilities such as schools, parks and infrastructure. **Table V-9** summarizes fees the City of Covina currently charges for new residential development. The City periodically evaluates the actual cost of processing development permits when revising its fee schedule. The last fee schedule update was adopted in 2016.

Table V-9
Planning and Development Fees

Fee Category	Fee or Deposit Amount*	
Planning and Permit Fees		
Site Plan Review (major)	\$5,417	
Site Plan Review (minor)	\$105 - \$3,168	
General Plan Amendment	\$10,830	
Zoning Amendment	\$4,736 - \$10,830	
Conditional Use Permit	\$4,134	
Tentative Parcel Map	\$3,769	
Tentative Tract Map	\$10,830	
Variance	\$1,236 - \$4,134	
General Plan fee	\$2.00 per \$1,000 construction valuation	
CEQA Compliance		
Environmental Analysis	\$4,118 + consultant cost	
Development Impact Fees		
	SF	MF
General Government	\$1,028	\$974
Library	\$646	\$498
Police	\$956	\$737
Parks	\$6,172	\$4,759
Circulation	\$2,334	\$1,867
Schools	\$2.26/sf	\$3.19/sf
Fire protection	\$458	\$353
Estimated total impact fees per unit*	\$17,018	\$12,836
Estimated typical development cost	\$800,000	\$500,000
Estimated % of total development cost	2%	3%

*Assumes typical 2,400 sf (SF) and 1,200 sf (MF)

Source: City of Covina, 2019

Communities Facilities District fees. In 2007 the City established a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (CFD) to offset the increased cost of public services needed to serve new residential developments. The CFD special taxes are used to defray the additional cost of police, fire protection and suppression, paramedic services and park maintenance.

Only residential developments where there is a net increase of residential units are subject to special taxes. Replacement, reconstruction, improvement or expansion of pre-existing residential units where no new dwelling units are created (such as room additions, replacement or reconstruction after fire, earthquake or disaster, home improvements or refurbishments, etc.) are exempt from CFD taxes. Deed-restricted affordable housing is also exempt.

The CFD collection is done through an annexation process that places a special tax on the new property owner's tax bill. The annexation process, which includes a public hearing and a special election (a landowner vote if there are less than 12 registered voters within the territory proposed to be annexed), must be completed prior to issuance of a building permit. The developer is responsible for the cost incurred by the City to process the annexation of the development to the District (currently approximately \$3,500). As of 2021, annual CFD taxes are \$734.56 for single-family units and \$550.58 for multi-family or mixed-use residential units.

Unfunded State Mandates. In addition to the cost of public improvements, the State Legislature has adopted many "unfunded mandates" that place financial burdens on local governments. For example, beginning in 2018 annual General Plan reporting requirements were expanded significantly but no State funding was allocated to help defray the cost of carrying out this expanded requirement because local governments have the ability to charge fees to offset the administrative cost of complying with these mandates. These State mandates have the effect of increasing the cost of development, such as through increased building permit fees related to administration of the General Plan.

Improvement Requirements

Under the Subdivision Map Act, developers are generally required to construct on- and off-site improvements needed to serve new developments, including streets, sidewalks, and utilities. The City's street standards are shown in **Table V-10**. These standards are typical for cities in the San Gabriel Valley and do not act as a constraint to housing development.

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contains a schedule of public improvements including streets, storm drains and other infrastructure projects to facilitate development consistent with the City's General Plan. The CIP helps to ensure that public improvements are coordinated with private development. Pursuant to SB 1087 of 2004, water and sewer providers must grant priority for service allocations to proposed developments that include housing units affordable to lower-income households.

Table V-10
Street Standards

Designation	Number of Lanes	Right-of-Way Width
Primary arterial	4-6	100
Secondary arterial	4	80
Collector street	2-4	55-80
Local street	2	52-56

Source: City of Covina, Circulation Element, 2000

Although development fees and improvement requirements increase the cost of housing, cities have little choice in establishing such requirements due to the limitations on property taxes and other revenue sources needed to fund public services and improvements.

B. Non-Governmental Constraints

1. Land Costs

Land represents one of the most significant components of the cost of new housing, and land prices reflect the cyclical nature of the residential real estate market. Covina is a mature city with few vacant parcels remaining; therefore, a substantial portion of new development opportunities will involve reuse of underutilized sites, which increases development costs due to site clearance activities before development can occur. For the few remaining vacant residential lots, typical asking prices range from approximately \$250,000 to over \$1 million per acre depending on location and size.

2. Construction Costs

Construction cost is affected by the price of materials, labor, development standards and general market conditions. The City has no influence over materials and labor costs, and the building codes and development standards in Covina are not substantially different than other cities in Los Angeles County. In recent years, construction costs for materials and labor have increased at a higher pace than the general rate of inflation according to the Construction Industry Research Board. Current residential construction cost is typically in the range of \$150-200 per square foot, although custom homes and more complex projects can significantly exceed this amount.

3. Cost and Availability of Financing

The crisis in the mortgage industry that began in 2008 affected the availability and cost of real estate loans. One of the most significant changes was a tightening of mortgage underwriting standards, which had greater impacts on lower-income families than other segments of the community. For those with good credit ratings interest rates have been at historic lows, resulting in increased affordability.

Covina is similar to most other communities with regard to private sector home financing programs. As discussed in the previous chapter, a variety of mortgage assistance programs are available that provide a lower interest rate to eligible homebuyers than conventional financing.

Under State law, it is illegal for real estate lending institutions to discriminate against entire neighborhoods in lending practices because of the physical or economic conditions in the area ("redlining"). In monitoring new construction sales, resales of existing homes, and permits for remodeling, it does not appear that redlining is practiced in any area of the city.

This page intentionally left blank

VI. HOUSING ACTION PLAN

The previous chapters of this Housing Element describe the housing needs, opportunities and constraints in Covina. The following Housing Action Plan presents the City's Housing Plan for the 2021-2029 period and establishes goals, policies, programs and quantified objectives intended to address the city's housing needs.

A. Goals and Policies

The goals and policies of the Housing Element presented in the following section address Covina's identified housing needs and are implemented through the programs described in Section B, below.

GOAL *An adequate supply of housing of all types that serves the needs of current and future Covina residents of all ages, household sizes, types, incomes and ability levels, free from discrimination.*

Policy 1 *Conserve and improve the condition of the existing affordable housing stock.*

Policy 2 *Facilitate housing production commensurate with projected needs for households of all types and income levels.*

Policy 3 *Encourage home ownership for first-time buyers and low- and moderate-income households.*

Policy 4 *Mitigate potential constraints to housing for households of all economic levels and persons with disabilities.*

Policy 5 *Affirmatively further fair housing and equal housing opportunities for all persons.*

B. Housing Programs

The following programs describe the specific actions the City will undertake in support of the goals and policies stated above.

1. *Conserve and improve the condition of the existing affordable housing stock*

1.1 Code Compliance

The City implements a code compliance program to ensure the safety and aesthetic appearance of the community. Staff addresses the unpermitted construction and alterations to residential and non-residential properties whenever noted; identifies and monitors vacant and/or foreclosed properties in an effort to keep them properly maintain and secure from trespassing and intrusion; assists the City's Police Department in addressing problem properties or problem uses, and works with City Attorney when necessary for compliance. When assistance with problems in the interior of structures are

identified, staff works with the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, and on occasion, the Department of Mental Health.

When conditions requiring maintenance or rehabilitation are observed, inspectors refer residents to programs offering funding assistance such as the Covina CDBG Residential Rehabilitation program, programs offered through local churches, and through Habitat for Humanity.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to implement the code compliance program and direct eligible households to available rehabilitation assistance to address 100% of code violations throughout the planning period, including minor repair and rehabilitation assistance for 2 to 4 units annually (see Program 1.2). Efforts are targeted in low-resource areas of the city and toward properties showing signs of distress or violations.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- CDBG

1.2 Residential Rehabilitation Program

Although the majority of the City's housing stock is in good condition, about two-thirds of housing units in Covina are 50+ years old and require ongoing maintenance and repair. The Residential Rehabilitation Program funds residential repair and improvements for low-to moderate-income (not to exceed 80% of median income adjusted for household size) owner-occupied single-family detached homes and mobile homes. This program is funded through CDBG.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Facilitate minor repair and rehabilitation assistance for 2 to 4 units annually. Efforts are targeted in low resource areas the city and properties showing structural or deferred maintenance problems

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- CDBG

1.3 Section 8 Rental Assistance

The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program extends rental subsidies to extremely-low- and very-low-income households who spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing. Rental assistance not only addresses housing affordability, but also overcrowding by

assisting families that may be "doubling up" to afford rent. The Los Angeles County Housing Authority coordinates Section 8 rental assistance on behalf of the City. New applications are accepted as funding becomes available.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to direct eligible households to the County Housing Authority's Section 8 program throughout the planning period with the objective of increasing the number of vouchers in Covina by 25% during the planning period subject to funding availability.
- Post information annually on the Section 8 program on the City website and in City offices
- Encourage multifamily property owners within High Resource tracts to provide information and education on housing vouchers and opportunities to participate in the program

Responsible parties:

- Los Angeles County Housing Authority

Funding source:

- HUD

1.4 Preservation of Assisted Housing

As discussed in Section II, there are two assisted housing projects eligible to convert to market rate during the 2021-2031 period. The City will continue to monitor units with affordability covenants that are eligible to expire during the next 10 years. To encourage the preservation of these "at-risk" units, the City will coordinate with the County and non-profit housing organizations on an annual basis to encourage the extension and/or renewal of affordability covenants, comply with noticing requirements (Gov. Code 65863.10, 65863.11, 65863.13), provide education and assistance to tenants, assist with funding, and promptly reach out to qualified entities to preserve at-risk housing units.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Preserve 100% of the assisted affordable units in the city; annual outreach.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department; LACDA

Funding source:

- Grant funds

1.5 Mobile Home Park Preservation

There are five mobile home parks in Covina, three of which are designated *Trailers and Mobile Home Parks* in the Zoning Code. This zoning designation helps to preserve these parks since any land use change would require an amendment to the City's Zoning

Ordinance as well as adherence to State mobile home park closure requirements. In addition, mobile homes are eligible for rehabilitation assistance (see Program 1.2).

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to support preservation of mobile home parks as an important affordable housing resource throughout the planning period.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- General Fund

2. *Facilitate housing production commensurate with projected needs for households of all types and income levels*

2.1 Adequate Sites to Accommodate Housing Needs

As discussed in Chapter IV - Constraints, City General Plan and zoning regulations provide for a variety of housing types at densities up to 50 units per acre, and higher densities can be achieved through density bonus provisions. The Town Center Specific Plan (TCSP) allows stand-alone multi-family development at up to 40 units per acre and mixed-use development at up to 50 units per acre. A Metrolink rail station lies within the northern portion of the TCSP area and TCSP regulations support mixed-use development close to transit and places of employment. In 2022, the TCSP was amended to provide additional incentives for housing development, and a significant amount of new housing has already been built or approved within the TCSP, as discussed in Appendix B.

The TCSP area provides excellent opportunities for new housing development and the City will continue to encourage property owners and developers to pursue high-density residential and mixed-use development to accommodate housing needs at all income levels, including extremely-low-income units and housing for persons with special needs. Mixed-use can also reduce vehicle trips, make more efficient use of land and parking areas, and facilitate energy conservation.

To address the housing crisis and provide additional opportunities for new housing development, in October 2022 the City approved a zoning amendment that established two new mixed-use overlay zones (the Mixed Use Overlay District and the Affordable Housing Mixed Use Overlay District) on additional sites to accommodate the significant increase in housing need assigned to Covina for the 2021-2029 period in the RHNA. Appendix B includes an analysis of the inventory of sites and the additional capacity for housing.

In compliance with Government Code §65583.2(h) and (i), the Affordable Housing Mixed Use Overlay District regulations include the following requirements:

- Accommodate a minimum of 16 units per site

- Require a minimum density of 20 units per acre
- At least 50 percent of the lower-income need must be accommodated on sites designated for residential use only or on sites zoned for mixed uses that accommodate all of the very-low- and low-income housing need, if those sites:
 - allow 100% residential use, and
 - require residential use occupy 50% of the total floor area of a mixed-use project
- Permit owner-occupied and rental multifamily uses by-right for developments in which 20% or more of the units are affordable to lower-income households. By-right means review must not require a CUP, planned unit development permit, or other discretionary review or approval.

To address potential displacement issues, development on any site listed in Appendix B that proposes to demolish existing housing units shall be subject to a policy requiring the replacement of affordable units as a condition of any development on the site pursuant to Government Code §65583.2(g)(3). Replacement requirements shall be consistent with those set forth in §65915(c)(3). In addition, zoning for the nonvacant sites listed in Table B-3 that were identified in a prior housing element shall be amended by October 2024 to allow development by-right at the “default density” for housing developments in which at least 20 percent of the units are affordable to lower income households pursuant to Government Code Sec. 65583.2(c).

To ensure that adequate sites are available to accommodate the City’s remaining share of regional housing need throughout the planning period, the City will comply with the *no net loss* provisions of *Government Code* §65863 through a project-by-project evaluation process. Pursuant to State law, the residential density for any parcel listed in Appendix B shall not be reduced below the level estimated in Appendix B unless the City makes written findings as required by §65863.

A current inventory of sites suitable for residential development will be made available to interested parties at the Community Development Department office and on the City’s website.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Provide adequate sites for housing development at all income levels commensurate with the RHNA in compliance with Government Code Sec. 65583.2(h) and (i).
- Ensure compliance with *no net loss* requirements throughout the planning period in compliance with Government Code Sec. 65863.
- Post the sites inventory on the City website throughout the planning period

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- Grant funds; General Fund

2.2 Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites

Covina is a mature city with very little vacant land remaining; therefore, nearly all significant development opportunities involve the redevelopment of underutilized properties. The City will encourage property owners to pursue redevelopment that includes a mixed-use or multi-family residential component in appropriate locations. Examples of incentives the City can offer to encourage and facilitate residential redevelopment include:

- Density bonuses
- Flexible development standards (e.g., modified parking or other development standards)
- City support for affordable housing funding applications
- Priority processing for developments that include affordable units

Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 65583.2(g)(3) for any proposed development on a site that has had residential uses within the past five years that are or were subject to low- or very-low-income affordability restrictions, or are or were subject to any other form of rent or price control, or are or were occupied by low- or very-low-income households, the City shall require the replacement of all affordable units at the same or lower income level as a condition of development on the site. Replacement requirements shall be consistent with those set forth in Section 65915(c)(3).

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Encourage interested property owners to pursue redevelopment of underutilized properties through the provision of incentives and concessions. The City will continue to encourage consolidation of adjacent parcels into larger development sites by allowing increased density on parcels of more than one-half acre and through concurrent expedited processing of parcel maps with other entitlements throughout the planning period.
- Review changes to State law annually to ensure compliance with Government Code Sec. 65583.2(g)(3) and State Density Bonus requirements regarding the replacement of lower-income units.
- Facilitate production of at least 1,910 additional housing units with priority for projects located in high-resource areas during the planning period commensurate with the City's RHNA allocation.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- Grant funds; General Fund

2.3 Accessory Dwelling Units

Accessory dwelling units (also known as ADUs, second units or granny flats) can help to address a portion of the city's housing needs, particularly for small lower-income households. City zoning regulations permit ADUs by-right in all residential districts consistent with State law.

To encourage ADU production the City prepared an easy-to-read ADU Guidebook in 2021 that is made available in multiple languages and is publicized via the City's website, newsletters, email distribution lists, social media, and the cable television channel. City staff also provides assistance to residents and applicants in preparing ADU applications and clarifying requirements.

The City will continue to monitor legislation and revise ADU regulations as necessary to ensure conformance with current law.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Monitor State legislation annually and revise ADU regulations as necessary by October 2022 and annually thereafter to ensure conformance with State law
- Continue to encourage ADU construction throughout the planning period by providing the ADU Guidebook and staff assistance to interested homeowners, with an objective of at least 104 ADUs with priority targeting in high-resources neighborhoods during the planning period.
- Explore and pursue ADU grant funding opportunities by May 2023 and annually thereafter

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- Grant funds; General Fund

2.4 Housing for Low- and Moderate-income Households

The City will assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of extremely low-, very low-, low- and moderate-income households and housing for persons with special needs, such as seniors, homeless, farmworkers, female-headed households and persons with disabilities including developmental disabilities, through the following strategies:

- Priority processing
- Priority water/sewer service for projects that include lower-income units (AB 1087 of 2004)
- Provide assistance to developers in applying for affordable housing grant funding, such as LIHTC

- Provide incentives and concessions including modified development standards through density bonus regulations
- Fee waivers or deferrals
- Streamlined ministerial review for qualifying developments (SB 35 of 2017)
- Outreach and coordination with affordable housing developers

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Outreach to affordable housing developers annually to identify potential development and grant funding opportunities, and provide assistance with grant applications as opportunities become available
- Facilitate development of affordable units commensurate with the RHNA allocation (i.e., 614 very-low-income units, 268 low-income units and 281 moderate-income units) throughout the planning period, with targeted priority in high-resources areas of the city
- Continue to implement density bonus regulations and update local regulations as necessary on an annual basis in conformance with State law
- Prepare internal guidance procedures for streamlined ministerial review pursuant to SB 35 by May 2023

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- Grant funds; General Fund

3. Encourage home ownership for first-time buyers and low- and moderate-income households

3.1 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance

Los Angeles County offers financing assistance to qualified first-time homebuyers through the Home Ownership Program (HOP), the Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) program and the Southern California Home Financing Authority (SCHFA) program. The City provides referral information on these programs at the public counter and on the City website.

Home Ownership Program (HOP)

The Los Angeles County Home Ownership Program (HOP) provides zero-interest loans with no repayment due until the home is sold, transferred, or refinanced. Maximum loan amount is \$80,000 or 20% of the purchase price, whichever is less. The loan is secured by a second trust deed. The home must be owner-occupied for the life of the loan.

Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program

The Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) program is a federal program that allows qualified first-time homebuyers to take an annual credit against federal income taxes of up to 20% of the annual interest paid on the applicant's mortgage. This enables homebuyers to have more income available to qualify for a mortgage loan and make the monthly mortgage payments. The value of the MCC must be taken into consideration by the mortgage lender in underwriting the loan and may be used to adjust the borrower's federal income tax withholding. The MCC program has covenant restrictions to ensure the affordability of the participating homes for a period of 15 years. MCCs can be used in conjunction with the Home Ownership Program (HOP).

Southern California Home Financing Authority (SCHFA)

SCHFA is a joint powers authority between Los Angeles and Orange Counties formed in 1988 to create first-time homebuyer programs for low- to moderate-income households. For more than 25 years, SCHFA has helped thousands of individuals and families fulfill their dreams of owning a home. This program makes buying a home more affordable for qualifying homebuyers by offering a competitive 30-year fixed-rate loan and a grant for down-payment and closing costs assistance. The program is administered by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) and the Public Finance Division of the County of Orange. SCHFA does not lend money directly to homebuyers. Homebuyers must work directly with a participating lender.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to promote these home ownership programs and provide information to interested homebuyers on the City website and at City offices annually throughout the planning period, with the objective of at least a 25% increase in first-time homebuyer loans in high-resource areas during the planning period.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- Grant funds; General Fund

4. *Mitigate potential constraints to housing for households of all economic levels and persons with disabilities*

4.1 Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities

State law requires cities to make reasonable accommodation for housing occupied by persons with disabilities, including developmental disabilities. The Municipal Code establishes procedures for reviewing and approving requests for reasonable housing accommodations in conformance with fair housing law. The City will continue to implement the Reasonable Accommodation ordinance throughout the planning period.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to implement reasonable accommodation procedures for persons with disabilities in compliance with State law throughout the planning period.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- General Fund

4.2 Housing for Persons with Special Needs

State law requires that emergency shelters must be allowed by-right in at least one zone, and transitional and supportive housing must be regulated as residential uses subject only to the same standards as apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. In addition, low barrier navigation centers must be permitted in areas zoned for mixed use and in nonresidential zones permitting multi-family uses. The Zoning Ordinance establishes regulations for emergency shelters, low barrier navigation centers, transitional housing and supportive housing in compliance with State law. Supportive housing is particularly important for persons living with developmental disabilities.

In 2017, the City received a Measure H grant from the County of Los Angeles to fund the preparation of a *City Plan to Combat Homelessness*. The Plan includes the following strategies and information:

- Assess the resources currently available in Covina to address the homeless challenge;
- Identify opportunities for Covina to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and neighboring cities on initiatives to address homelessness; and,
- Identify how Covina can coordinate efforts and resources to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and neighboring cities to achieve mutual goals.

On February 28, 2018 two Homeless Plan Visioning Workshops were held with homeless services providers, faith-based groups, business owners, and other community members to provide feedback and information and outline plan goals and supporting actions. The Plan was adopted by the City Council on June 5, 2018. The City of Covina is continuing to work cooperatively with the County and other San Gabriel Valley cities to facilitate the establishment of additional facilities and services to address the needs of the homeless population.

Since adoption of the Plan, the City of Covina has applied for two Measure H grants through the County. The City has been awarded a Priority 1 grant to identify housing and work with discharge planners for 5150 holds in local hospitals, and a Priority 2 grant. The Priority 2 grant is a multi-city grant with the cities of Azusa, Glendora, Duarte, and West Covina. West Covina will be the fiscal agent, and the grant will [providesprovide](#) for five housing navigators, one in each of the five cities, to provide services to homeless persons. The Priority 2 grant also requires matching funds by the cities.

To ensure compliance with recent changes to State law (AB 139), a Code amendment will also be processed to revise emergency shelter parking standards to require only sufficient parking to accommodate all staff working in the emergency shelter, provided that the standards do not require more parking for emergency shelters than for other residential or commercial uses within the same zone.

In order to minimize constraints on housing for persons with disabilities, the City will amend zoning regulations to develop mitigating strategies and objective standards to remove potential constraints and facilitate approval certainty for large residential care facilities for more than six persons and revise the definition of “family” consistent with fair housing law.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Continue to implement the Zoning Ordinance to allow emergency shelters, transitional/supportive housing and low barrier navigation centers pursuant to State law, including AB 2162 of 2018 regarding supportive housing throughout the planning period
- Amend zoning regulations for emergency shelter parking standards, large residential care facilities, and the definition of “family” by April 2023
- Work cooperatively with the County and other San Gabriel Valley cities to facilitate the provision of additional services and facilities to assist homeless persons and families throughout the planning period

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- General Fund

4.3 Development Standards and Review Procedures

Development standards, such as density/intensity limits, off-street parking requirements, and permit review procedures, can pose a constraint to housing development if they are excessive. In 2019 the City adopted a major amendment to the Town Center Specific Plan, which is adjacent to the Metrolink commuter rail station, intended to further encourage residential and mixed-use development. The City also adopted new Mixed Use Overlay regulations in 2022 to allow residential and mixed-use development in areas previously zoned for only non-residential uses.

To ensure that permit review procedures facilitate and do not unreasonably hinder housing development, the City will also reevaluate Site Plan Review procedures and criteria, and process an amendment by June 2023 to expand the use of administrative review and objective standards in order to minimize constraints on the cost and supply of housing.

Program objectives and timeframe:

- Review TCSP development standards and Site Plan Review procedures and amend regulations to expand the use of administrative review and objective standards by June 2023.

- Post City development standards and fees on the City website by October 2022 and throughout the planning period in compliance with transparency requirements

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department

Funding source:

- General Fund; grant funds

5. *Affirmatively further fair housing and equal housing opportunities for all persons*

5.1 Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

Fair housing law requires equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, gender, family size, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, age, or physical disability. “Affirmatively furthering fair housing” means taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. Specifically, affirmatively furthering fair housing means taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws. The duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all public agency’s activities and programs relating to housing and community development.

The Housing Rights Center (<http://www.hrc-la.org>) provides fair housing information, landlord/tenant counseling, discrimination complaint investigation, education and training in Los Angeles County, including Covina. The City will continue to support the Housing Rights Center through placement of fair housing service brochures at the public counter and other governmental offices, and on the City website.

In addition, pursuant to Government Code Section 8899.50(b), the City will continue to administer its programs and activities relating to housing and community development in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing and will take no action that is materially inconsistent with its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.

Appendix D summarizes the fair housing issues and concerns in Covina based on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) analysis conducted as part of this Housing Element update. The following table presents a summary of the issues, contributing factors, and the City’s actions to address these fair housing issues.

Program objectives and timeframe:

Fair Housing Issue	Contributing Factor	Priority	Meaningful Action
Fair Housing Outreach	Some residents who are in need of fair housing resources, including low-income households, persons with disabilities, racial/ethnic minorities and other protected classes, may be unaware of the fair housing resources that are available. Although information about fair housing services is posted on the City website and in public offices, more could be done to make this information available.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue directing fair housing inquiries to the Housing Rights Center. • Continue to support the provision of housing for persons with disabilities. • Post information at the Senior Center regarding fair housing and conduct a presentation every two years at the Center about services available through the County CDC, Housing Rights Center and the City. • In cooperation with the Housing Rights Center, contact low-income apartment complexes annually to provide education and materials about the Section 8 program including multi-lingual materials. • Publish and annually update links to fair housing information via social media. (Program 5.1)
Affordable Housing Preservation	The loss of existing affordable housing may be a significant contributing factor to fair housing and potential displacement. When subsidy contracts expire, the housing providers that often have the least economic incentive to renew their affordability restrictions are those that are located in higher opportunity areas or in areas that are gentrifying or at risk of gentrification. As discussed in Chapter III, there are two subsidized low-income developments in Covina with affordability restrictions that could expire in the next 10 years. If affordability covenants are not extended, the loss of these affordable units could contribute to segregation and displacement.	High	The City will continue to monitor units with affordability covenants that are eligible to expire during the next 10 years. To encourage the preservation of these "at-risk" units, the City will coordinate with the County and non-profit housing organizations on an annual basis to encourage the extension and/or renewal of affordability covenants, comply with noticing requirements, provide education and assistance to tenants, assist with funding, and promptly reach out to qualified entities to preserve at-risk housing units. (Program 1.4)

Fair Housing Issue	Contributing Factor	Priority	Meaningful Action
Access to Opportunity	Lack of access to opportunity due to high housing costs is a significant contributing factor to fair housing throughout the San Gabriel Valley area. In Covina, while access to public transportation and other resources is generally good, some portions of the city have lower economic, educational and environmental opportunity. Increasing housing opportunities in areas with good opportunity would make it easier for low-income households to access the types of services and amenities that further social mobility.	High	<p>Several programs in the Housing Plan are intended to improve access to opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs 1.3 Section 8 Rental Assistance and 1.4 Preservation of Assisted Housing improve the ability of lower-income households to afford suitable housing in areas with better access to opportunity. • Programs 2.1 Adequate Sites to Accommodate Housing Needs and 2.2 Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites will expand housing opportunities by amending zoning regulations to encourage new housing in high-opportunity areas. • Program 3.1 First-Time Homebuyer Assistance will provide financial assistance to households wishing to purchase their first home.

Responsible parties:

- Community Development Department; Housing Rights Center

Funding source:

- General Fund; grant funds

Quantified Objectives

Table VI-1 describes the City's quantified objectives for the 2021-2029 planning period.

**Table VI-1
Quantified Objectives 2021-2029**

	Income Category					Totals
	Ex. Low	V. Low	Low	Mod	Above Mod	
New construction ^a	307	307	268	281	747	1,910
Rehabilitation	16-32			0	0	16-32
Conservation ^b	124		145	162	0	431

a Quantified objective for the extremely-low category is half of the very-low RHNA allocation consistent with State law

b Existing assisted affordable units