

# HOUSING FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH TAHOE/TRUCKEE

SEPTEMBER 2016

## STRIVING FOR SOLUTIONS



### BACKGROUND

At the end of 2015, it became clear that our community needed to face our regional housing issues head on. Together with three jurisdictions, a myriad of business leaders, special district representatives, associations, and individual citizens, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) and Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee (CCTT) advanced a collaborative community effort to best understand the complexity of our regional housing issues. Through the 2016 Regional Housing Study, TTCF and CCTT have worked alongside our community and resource partners to facilitate an intentional community conversation involving all of our citizens. In doing so, we have established a common understanding and baseline of needs in relation to housing in the North Lake Tahoe-Truckee Region.

The Regional Housing Study, our needs assessment phase, is complete and we are left with the following reflections:

- There are many unique dimensions and perspectives amongst our citizens in regards to housing and workforce needs
- Key stakeholders, particularly our special districts, public entities, nonprofits, and businesses, are looking for a continued way to invest time, money, and policy in creating solutions
- There is significant community enthusiasm to engage in the housing conversation, particularly around solutions

### A FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

In the past, there was an effort to approach housing issues by way of a separate agency, the Workforce Housing Association of Tahoe Truckee (WHATT). Regional leaders and funders worked hard on this effort and we learned a lot from their experiences that has helped us shape a different approach to regional housing solutions.

Moving forward, our region needs to focus on solution in three areas:

1. *Serving individuals and families* in order to place them in housing, as well as connect employers and employees to programs that can address their needs
2. *Advocating* for policy change and tracking accountability
3. *Attracting and connecting capital* to advance the needs of housing in our region

Rather than establishing another governmental organization, we believe that we can accomplish these objectives through a shared regional effort. **Solutions for our area should fit within the existing resources we have; and maintaining the collaborative model designed for the Study is a way to do just that.**

This strategy can continue to advance regional housing solutions while sharing the responsibility across multiple organizations and creating a way to hold everyone accountable for those solutions.

## REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

We propose a *Regional Housing Council* of North Tahoe-Truckee that is made up of a broad network of stakeholders who can help guide and oversee the role-out of both a Regional Policy Agenda and advise on collective resources.

### Regional Policy Agenda

Our community is showing amazing traction and attention for a collaborative, solution focused *Regional Policy Agenda* that can support the seventeen special districts and three jurisdictions to each come up with a handful of policies directed at solutions. With a Council in place, members can seek consensus around solutions, share best practices, monitor progress, and jointly hold each other accountable. Informal conversations with a number of key stakeholders who would help serve and support such an activity indicate a definite appetite to proceed.

### Housing Solutions Fund

In order to manage the activities overseen by a council and attract the types of dollars needed to drive the solutions, TTCF has seeded a Field of Interest Fund that deploys dollars in an integrated capital way. This *Housing Solutions Fund* will serve the following purposes:

- Sustain coordinating and administrative activities for the Council for 3-5 years
- Provide grants to existing agencies that are willing to help guide individuals, families, and businesses in the right direction for housing and programs
- Attract larger capital to help leverage funds for real bricks and mortar solutions across the housing spectrum

We believe that different types of donors and funders will be attracted to this Fund to help advance the real solutions throughout the region.

TTCF is willing to continue acting in the role of a neutral convener of this conversation and possible project manager. When appropriate, TTCF would facilitate dollars to drive specific projects in order to leverage more dollars and build housing solutions. In those cases, the projects will have to be fully vetted by the community and ready to go with the last pieces of capital remaining.

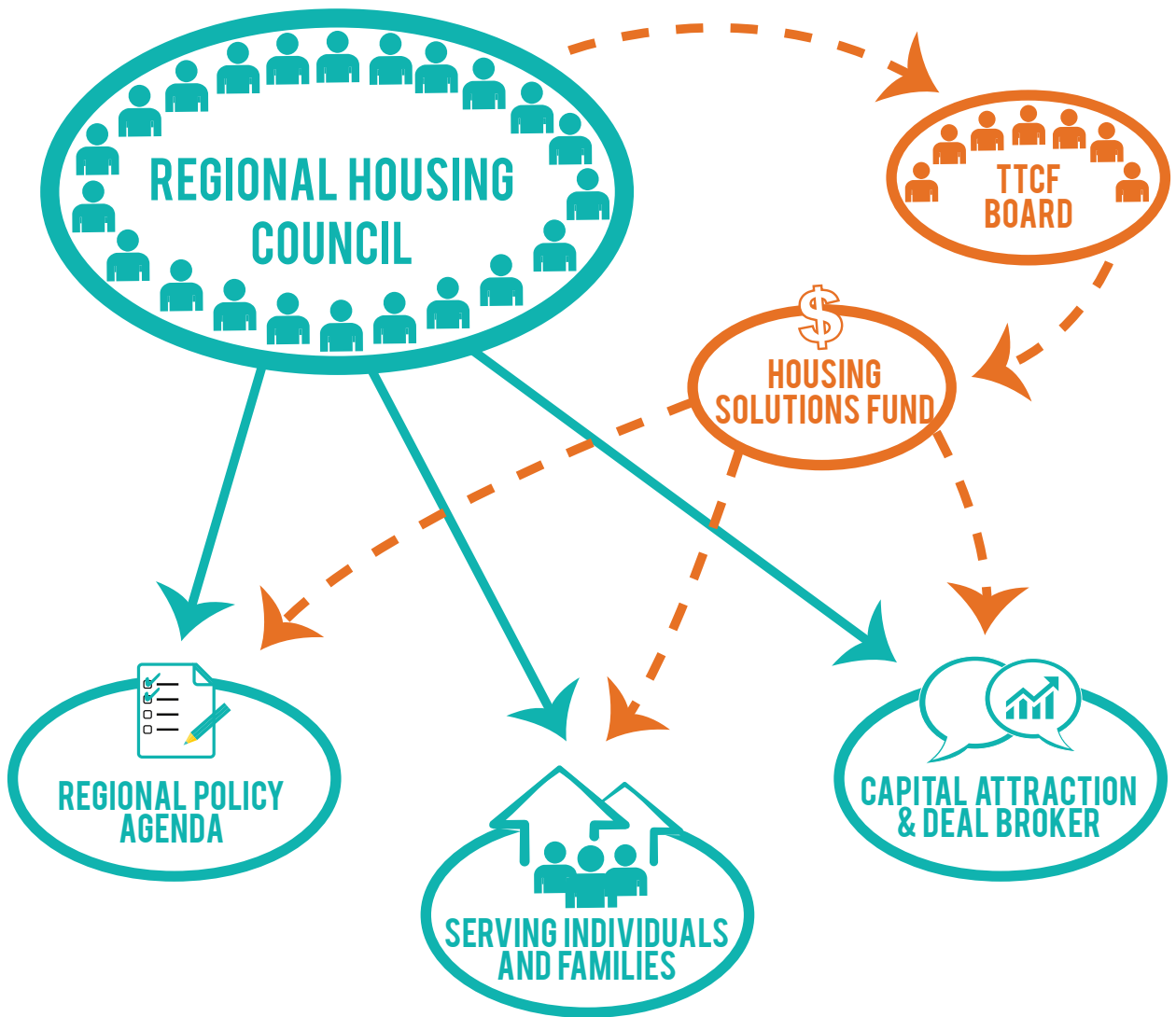
## NEXT STEPS

- Meetings with key stakeholders involved in the Study, local jurisdictions and special district CEOs
- Request for Council Membership
- Requests for Funds (seeking 3 year commitments with available 2 year extension if certain milestones are hit)
- Announcement to other funders to invite participation in the ways that make the best sense for their mission

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