Land Use & Zoning: A **Regulatory Round Table** Carlos Gemora, Sites **Southwest** Sara Gonzales. City of **Las Cruces** Jackie Fishman, **Consensus Planning** Mesilla 478 Mesilla Valley Bosque



Advancing Housing Development

Subsidy

Planning & Zoning Modernization

Administrative Efficiencies

Federal

State

Local

Increasing or incentivizing diverse housing options, density, and new construction.

Streamlining administrative processes, including permitting and approvals.





Planning & Zoning Modernization Strategies

Promote Density and Diverse Options

- Allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs), duplexes, triplexes or fourplexes in areas historically limited to single-unit dwellings.
- Allow multi-unit dwellings in areas historically limited to triplexes or fourplexes.
- Allow multi-unit dwellings or mixed-use developments in areas zoned for office, retail, or commercial uses, as well as in transit, employment, and commercial areas, or other population centers.
- Eliminate or reduce off-street parking, minimum lot size, setback, building height limits, and aesthetic requirements.





Encouraging "Middle Housing"

The term "middle housing" refers to housing that is between single-family homes and larger apartment buildings. Middle housing can include duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, cottage clusters, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), courtyard apartments, and other similar housing.

Beyond expanding housing options in neighborhoods, middle housing has many advantages:

- Provides options that are accessible to both renters and owners at more income levels;
- Has a scale and appearance that can fit in well within neighborhoods
- Helps meet the needs of a more diverse and inclusive crosssection of the community;
- provides choices for households of different age, size, and income
- Supports walkable neighborhoods.



East Paraje Townhomes, a 20-unit development in Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico. Housing New Mexico provided \$9.3 million in financing to the project.



Administrative Efficiency Strategies

Streamlining Permitting & Approvals

- Eliminate or reduce impact fees for housing development projects.
- Improve review times, including through the use of third-party contractors.
- Improve permitting efficiency through technology solutions.
- Allow public comment on zoning and land use plans rather than specific developments.
- Improve technical resources so that the public can better understand policy and processes.



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