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Watching local government in Illinois' second-largest county

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West Chicago seeks community input on new housing initiative

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The City of West Chicago is partnering with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) and the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) to coordinate on shared housing needs through a project called Homes for a Changing Region.

To inform the public on the program and share ideas regarding the area's current and future housing needs among stakeholders, a workshop has been scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at West Chicago City Hall, 475 Main Street.

City leaders are hoping for a large turnout to ensure that residents have a voice in the important plan. Those who attend the meeting will have the opportunity to learn about local, regional and national housing trends that are affecting communities today and that will shape housing over the next 30 years.

City officials are asking attendees to share what they think are the most important housing challenges and opportunities in West Chicago, as well as offer ideas on the steps that the local government and civic partners can take to assist communities facing these challenges.

By collecting data and gaining valuable insight, the city can implement recommendations directly into the final Homes for a Changing Region plan.

“Having more public participation is important in any community, and it will help provide a stronger basis for the Homes study and its recommendations,” John Said, the city's director of community development, said. “I encourage everyone to come and participate.”