

Steering Committee Response Form

Initial Thoughts on Housing Tools, July 2020

This survey form was used to gather Cville Plans Together Steering Committee input on the initial list of potential housing tools discussed at the June 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Input from the Steering Committee is being used along with input from community engagement and other stakeholders in the development of preliminary housing recommendations, which will be discussed with the community in fall 2020.

The survey references the June 2 presentation, which can be found <u>here</u>.

A full recording of the June 2 meeting can be found <u>here</u>.



SURVEY INTRODUCTION

- After discussing housing issues at the April 2020 Steering Committee meeting, the meeting on June 2 focused on the housing tools that could address Charlottesville's housing needs. You recently received the notes from that meeting (in an email from Jennifer Koch on June 25), and you can also view the recording on YouTube here.
- We sent a version of the June 2 meeting presentation that includes an additional appendix with more information about each of the tools we briefly discussed on June 2. That document can also <u>be found here</u>. The Appendix starts on page 24, and the Appendix slides are also provided as images within this survey.
- The survey begins with an overview of the housing tools (this is the same material we walked through on June 2), and then walks you through 18 housing tools, organized in three categories, to get your input. There are three short questions about each tool.
- We want to know which housing tools you are most interested in exploring for addressing Charlottesville's needs and priorities, and what ideas or questions you have about the tools.
- This is only the first step in the process of assessing these tools we will also be discussing them more with you and with the larger Charlottesville community as we move forward.



Housing Tools Overview (from June 2 meeting)

Housing Tools Overview

Affordable housing tools fall into three main categories.



Land Use

Use municipal regulations and zoning authority to indirectly improve affordability by increasing the supply of housing, or to directly incentivize (or require) the production of affordable units.

e.g. by-right development, density bonuses, inclusionary zoning



Provide below-market rate loans, grants, or other public resources to close the gap between what a household can afford to pay and the costs to develop and operate housing.

e.g. rental assistance, gap financing for new construction, down payment assistance, public land sale



Rights

Preserve existing affordable housing and housing stability by using laws and regulations that protect current occupants.

e.g. right to counsel, rent control, just cause eviction

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Housing Tools Evaluation Criteria (from June 2 meeting)

Housing Tools Evaluation Criteria

Evaluating each potential housing tool will require an iterative process of decision-making that is responsive to the local context, focused on the following three conditions.



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Example Housing Tool Information Diagram

In the survey, we describe each of the tools on a diagram. The pieces of each diagram are described below; numbers are related to the red numbers on the diagram.

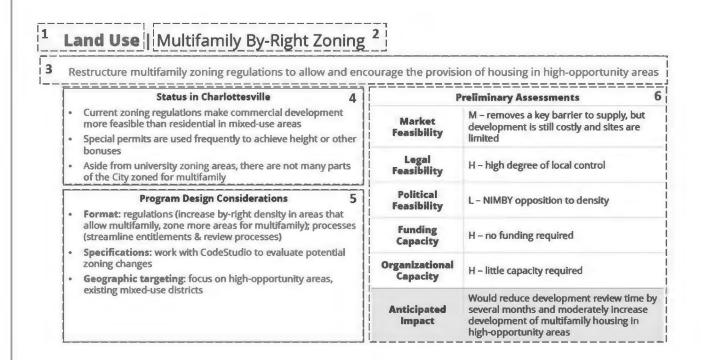
- 1. Type of tool (there are three types of tools in this survey: land use, subsidy, tenants' rights)
- 2. Name of tool (there are 18 tools in this survey)
- 3. Brief description of tool
- 4. How Charlottesville currently uses this tool (if at all)
- 5. Options and considerations for this tool
- 6. Potential impact and feasibility of this tool. This is our initial assessment, and it is subject to change based on information received from the Steering Committee and others:

H = high potential feasibility

M = moderate potential feasibility

L = low potential feasibility

TBD = potential impact to be determined/need more information





Land Use Tools

The first set of tools are related to land use. These tools use regulations and zoning to indirectly improve affordability by increasing the supply of housing, or to directly incentivize (or require) the production of affordable units.



Land Use Tool #1: Multifamily By-Right Zoning

Land Use | Multifamily By-Right Zoning

Restructure multifamily zoning regulations to allow and encourage the provision of housing in high-opportunity areas

Status in Charlottesville Current zoning regulations make commercial development more feasible than residential in mixed-use areas Special permits are used frequently to achieve height or other bonuses Aside from university zoning areas, there are not many parts

of the City zoned for multifamily

Program Design Considerations

- Format: regulations (increase by-right density in areas that allow multifamily, zone more areas for multifamily); processes (streamline entitlements & review processes)
- Specifications: work with CodeStudio to evaluate potential zoning changes
- Geographic targeting: focus on high-opportunity areas, existing mixed-use districts

Preliminary Assessments				
Market Feasibility	M – removes a key barrier to supply, but development is still costly and sites are limited			
Legal Feasibility	H – high degree of local control			
Political Feasibility	L – NIMBY opposition to density			
Funding Capacity	H – no funding required			
Organizational Capacity	H – little capacity required			
Anticipated Impact	Would reduce development review time by several months and moderately increase development of multifamily housing in high-opportunity areas			

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- By-right = Projects that comply with the zoning standards receive their approval without a discretionary review process.
- NIMBY = "Not in my backyard" refers to people who are opposed to a certain type of development in their area or neighborhood.
- CodeStudio = Member of the Cville Plans Together consultant team. Will lead the zoning update.

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Land Use Tool #2: "Soft Density" By-Right Zoning

Land Use | "Soft Density" By-Right Zoning

Change zoning to allow 2- to 4-unit structures in some or all single-family zoning areas

R-1 zoning is prevalent throughout Charlottesville. Townhomes represent less than 10% of total housing and 2-4 unit homes less than 15% in Charlottesville. Single-family zoning has historically been used to create racial segregation – the legacy of this practice persists Program Design Considerations Geographic targeting: Some or all single-family neighborhoods Affordability requirements: e.g. requiring that additional units be made affordable (temporarily or permanently) or tying additional units to voucher or down payment assistance programs Market Feasibility Legal Feasibility Funding Capacity Organizational Capacity

P	Preliminary Assessments			
Market Feasibility	M – current zoning constrains development, but infill opportunities may be limited			
Legal Feasibility	H – high degree of local control			
Political Feasibility	L – NIMBY opposition to density particularly strong in single-family neighborhoods			
Funding Capacity	H – no funding required			
Organizational Capacity	M – requires some additional capacity to review and approve development types			
Anticipated Impact	The availability of smaller units in single- family neighborhoods can support access to opportunity and reduce segregation			

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- R-1 zoning = A zoning district in Charlottesville that is a low-density area where the dominant pattern of residential development is a single-family dwelling.
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Land Use Tool #3: Inclusionary Zoning

Land Use | Inclusionary Zoning

Offer incentives or density bonuses in exchange for affordable housing as part of market rate development projects

Status in Charlottesville **Preliminary Assessments** The City currently offers a density bonus through a special use Market M - reduces market feasibility of new Feasibility permit that is used in most new multifamily development, but multifamily development this is not an effective bonus nor is it tied to affordability Changes to Virginia law taking effect in July will allow Legal H - new state regulations allow Charlottesville to adopt Inclusionary Zoning legislation Feasibility Charlottesville to adopt IZ legislation Political L to M - NIMBY opposition to density, **Program Design Considerations Feasibility** developer opposition Voluntary vs. mandatory **Funding** M - funding required if tied to financial Provision of incentive(s) to offset lost rental income Capacity incentives (necessary in all but the strongest markets) Format of incentive(s): regulatory (density bonus, parking Organizational H - little capacity required waiver) or financial (tax rebate, fee waiver) Capacity Target share of affordable units in development, e.g. 15%, and target income level for affordability Increased mixed-income development, but **Anticipated** Alternative compliance (if mandatory), e.g., in lieu fees **Impact** not likely to serve the lowest incomes Coordination with changes to multifamily by-right zoning

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•	In lieu fee = A fee generally paid into a housing trust fund by a developer and used (often along with other local funding	រូ sources)
	to finance affordable housing developed off-site.	

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Land Use Tool #4: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Land Use | Accessory Dwelling Units

Allow and potentially incentivize the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units in single-family neighborhoods

Status in Charlottesville Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are allowed in some areas, but with restrictions (not near University, for example) Main unit must be owner-occupied Many ADUs are used for short-term rentals Perogram Design Considerations

- Easing current restrictions: e.g. removing the requirement that main unit must be owner-occupied, reducing parking requirements where appropriate, allowing ADUs in more
- Incentives for affordability: supply low-cost financing for construction of ADUs set aside for income-qualified renters
- Geographic targeting, e.g., high-opportunity areas

Preliminary Assessments		
Market Feasibility	L - feasibility challenges to adding ADUs to existing developments	
Legal Feasibility	H – high degree of local control	
Political Feasibility	M – may be resistance to amending existing program	
Funding Capacity	L to M – depends on whether financial incentives are provided	
Organizational Capacity	M – depending on program design, may need City or nonprofit to operate low- income renter program	
Anticipated Impact	High burden of planning and financing on property owners may limit implementation	

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Accessory Dwelling Onit (ADO) = A secondary nousing unit on a single-lamily residential lot.
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Subsidy Tools

The second set of tools in this survey are types of subsidies. These tools provide below-market rate loans, grants, or other public resources to close the gap between what a household can afford to pay and the costs to develop and operate housing.



Subsidy Tool #1: Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Subsidy | 9% Low Income Tax Credits

Increase the production of subsidized housing using 9% LIHTC, with gap financing and other support as needed

Charlottesville has 768 active LIHTC units, with 482 units added since 2018 The City of Charlottesville has committed \$14.82 million since 2018 CRHA's ongoing modernization project is also using 9% LIHTC Program Design Considerations Income targets: prioritize support for projects with more units targeted to lower income households Funding amount: increase total funding available per year Geographic targeting, e.g. high-opportunity areas

P	reliminary Assessments
Market Feasibility	M – State LIHTC allocations are limited and may support up to a few hundred units per year
Legal Feasibility	H – High degree of local control
Political Feasibility	H – City is already providing funding for LIHTC
Funding Capacity	M - unknown availability of additional funding
Organizational Capacity	M – requires staff time to review applications & administer loans
Anticipated Impact	Increase the production of units serving very- and extremely- low-income households



- CRHA = Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- LIHTC = Low Income Housing Tax Credit, a federal program that provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit to support the development of affordable rental housing. The LIHTC program distributes federal income tax credits to developers through states' individual Housing Finance Agencies (HFA), which determine which projects receive tax credits under their federal allocation. There are two general types of credits that can be awarded, 9% credits and 4% credits.

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Subsidy Tool #2: Public Housing Redevelopment

Subsidy | Public Housing Redevelopment

Provision of new construction or substantial rehabilitation of housing by the housing authority

Status in Charlottesville

- CRHA is in the early stages of a significant redevelopment of its inventory using LIHTC and other funding sources, including support from the City and local philanthropy
- This will include the development of mixed-income communities

Program Design Considerations

- Source of Funding: Evaluate opportunities to use 4% LIHTC, particularly for renovations (4% LIHTC require more gap financing but are less competitive and better suited to renovation than 9% LIHTC)
- Focus on housing quality, investing in quality of older public housing
- Focus on de-concentration of poverty, by moving to mixedincome development

Preliminary Assessments					
Market Feasibility	H – CRHA is working with a development partner				
Legal Feasibility	H – Within CRHA's authority				
Political Feasibility	Not applicable				
Funding Capacity	M – The City must balance its ability to support CRHA projects with other net-new LIHTC development				
Organizational Capacity	M – CRHA will lead implementation				
Anticipated Impact	Increase access to opportunity and housing quality for public housing residents				

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Subsidy Tool #3: Tenant-Based Vouchers

Subsidy | Tenant-Based Vouchers

Provide renters with rental subsidies for market-rate units in any part of the city

Status in Charlottesville There are two tenant-based voucher programs in Charlottesville, both administered by the CRHA The City-funded CSRAP program supports 100 households coming from homelessness The Housing Choice Voucher program relies on federal funds and supports over 300 households Program Design Considerations Scale of Program: Expand the program so that it can serve more people Populations Served: An expanded program targeted to households at or below 50% of AMI could serve households before they face homelessness

F	Preliminary Assessments			
Market Feasibility	L –landlord discrimination limits impacts			
Legal Feasibility	M – restrictions on use of federal funds, limited influence on landlords			
Political Feasibility	M – unknown interest in expanding program			
Funding Capacity	M – unknown capacity to increase funding			
Organizational Capacity	H – CRHA or another nonprofit must verify income, provide case management, etc.			
Anticipated Impact	Increased housing stability and reduced cost burden for very- and extremely- low-income households			

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•	CSRAP = Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program. Provides monthly rental assistance to tenants who qualify a
	Extremely Low and Low-Income households. These households are defined as households earning no more than 60% of the
	Area Median Income as determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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Subsidy Tool #4: Emergency Short-Term Rental Assistance

Subsidy | Emergency Short-Term Rental Assistance

Help renters pay housing costs (such as rent, security deposits, utilities) on a limited basis to prevent eviction

Status in Charlottesville

- Charlottesville is in the process of designing a COVID-19 response and recovery program
- The City has received Community Development Block Grant funding to support disaster recovery

Program Design Considerations

- Eligibility: e.g., households at or below 80% of AMI that have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19
- Amount of Funding: Charlottesville should deploy all available recovery funding, but must balance multiple priorities
- Duration of Assistance: e.g. six months or until employment is recovered

P	Preliminary Assessments		
Market Feasibility	N/A		
Legal Feasibility	H – emergency rental assistance is an allowable use of disaster recovery funding		
Political Feasibility	M – unknown interest		
Funding Capacity	H – requires significant funding		
Organizational Capacity	H – requires a nonprofit partner to verify eligibility and oversee administration		
Anticipated Impact	Minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on evictions and homelessness		

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Subsidy Tool #5: Naturally-Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund

Subsidy | NOAH Preservation Fund

Status in CharlottesvilleCharlottesville does not currently provide funding or other

Dedicate a funding source to ensure continued affordability of NOAH through gap financing loans

Program Design Considerations Program Design Considerations Income targeting, e.g. portfolio goal of having at least 75% of units be affordable to 80% AMI or below Geographic targeting, e.g. "high-Impact" areas Fund size Fund product, e.g. long-term equity or mezzanine debt Public funds leverage requirement, for both fund capital and project investment (e.g. 3:1 and 20:1, respectively) Administrator, e.g. local CDFIs Eligible users, e.g. non-profit and for-profit

P	Preliminary Assessments			
Market Feasibility	M – high costs may limit the potential for this tool			
Legal Feasibility	H – minimal restrictions on use of local funding			
Political Feasibility	M – unknown interest			
Funding Capacity	L – requires significant capital			
Organizational Capacity	M – requires staff time to process applications and administer loans, requires interested for-profit or nonprofit owners			
Anticipated Impact	Older affordable and market-rate rental units maintain quality and affordability			

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- CDFI = Community Development Financial Institution.
- NOAH = Naturally-Occurring Affordable Housing. Refers to residential ownership and rental opportunities that are affordable to low- or moderate-income households and are not subsidized by any federal program.

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Subsidy Tool #6: Community Land Trust

Subsidy | Community Land Trust

Separate ownership of the land from ownership of the home to control resale value and ensure homeownership affordability in perpetuity

Status in Charlottesville

- Thomas Jefferson Community Land Trust is the major CLT in the area, serving Charlottesville and surrounding counties.
 The TJCLT has been supported by grants from the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund
- CLTs an alternative to a public-private land bank, for which there was some momentum in 2017

Program Design Considerations

- Access to funding: allow CLTs to access tax credits and funding; target subsidies to capitalize and support CLTs; target down payment assistance and rehab loans to CLT homes
- Depth of affordability: homeownership within CLTs targeted to specific income levels
- Alignment with IZ policy
- Program scale and amount of funding

Preliminary Assessments Market M - High land costs may be a barrier to Feasibility impacts Legal H - Framework exists Feasibility Political TBD Feasibility Funding TBD Capacity Organizational TBD Capacity **Anticipated** TRD **Impact**

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Subsidy Tool #7: Down Payment Assistance and Homeownership Counseling

Subsidy | Down Payment Assistance and Homeownership Counseling

Provide funding (in the form of a grant or forgivable loan) to reduce the up-front costs of purchasing a home. Provide counseling to first-time homebuyers (most impactful when paired with down payment assistance).

Status in Charlottesville **Preliminary Assessments** M - requires availability of single-family Piedmont Housing Alliance provides one-on-one housing Market homes at prices supportable by moderate counseling, as well as free community classes. **Feasibility** incomes PHA has a Down Payment Loan Program for households whose income is below 80% AMI Legal H - minimal restrictions on use of local Feasibility funding Political M - unknown interest **Program Design Considerations Feasibility** Eligibility: e.g. requirement for first-time homebuyers, **Funding** M - available local funding is the primary income restrictions (80% AMI), homeownership counseling Capacity feasibility constraint for this tool Buyer Financing: allow traditional and specialty mortgage L - requires nonprofit partner to verify Organizational income, administer program, provide Funding Amount: e.g. \$5,000 to 10,000 for down payment Capacity counseling and closing costs Homeownership assistance can help Program Scale: extent of funding will directly correlate to **Anticipated** program impacts households with limited funds overcome **Impact**

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Subsidy Tool #8: Landlord Risk Reduction Fund

Subsidy | Landlord Risk Reduction Fund

Fund to cover costs such as security deposits for tenants using vouchers, to incentivize landlord uptake of vouchers

Status in Charlottesville **Preliminary Assessments** Program has been set up, with some funding appropriated in Market L - does not appear to have moved the recent years Feasibility needle on increasing voucher use Passed Legal H - approved **Feasibility** Political H – approved **Program Design Considerations Feasibility** Amount of funding **Funding** H - funding appropriated Eligible uses, e.g. security deposits, back rent, fees, repairs Capacity from tenant damages, etc. Eligible tenants, e.g. those holding Section 8 vouchers or Organizational M - program set up, but may be difficult local vouchers Capacity for landlords to navigate **Anticipated** Market feasibility is a major constraint on **Impact** program efficacy

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Subsidy Tool #9: Property Tax Protections

Subsidy | Property Tax Protections

Mitigate property taxes for low-income homeowners, to shield homeowners from displacement due to taxes

Status in Charlottesville Real estate tax relief guaranteed for disabled veterans and the elderly and disabled Charlottesville Housing Affordability Program provides some grants to low-income homeowners Program Design Considerations Program Design Considerations Amount of benefit or tax exemption, e.g. full or partial/capped benefit Eligible recipients, e.g. \$55K income threshold Eligible properties, e.g. valued at below \$375K Market Feasibility Legal Feasibility Political Feasibility Capacity Organizational

Pi	reliminary Assessments
Market Feasibility	н
Legal Feasibility	H – existing precedents
Political Feasibility	H – existing precedents
Funding Capacity	L – will have negative budget impact; current tax relief program the second- highest non-capital budget item (behind vouchers)
Organizational Capacity	H – existing administrators
Anticipated Impact	Program is popular and effective at serving low-income owners, and is especially important where land values are high and increasing

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Tenants' Rights Tools

The third and final set of tools in this survey are related to tenants' rights. These tools preserve existing affordable housing and housing stability by using laws and regulations that protect current occupants.



Tenants' Rights Tool #1: Right to Counsel

Tenants' Rights | Right to Counsel

Establish a right to counsel for housing related court proceedings to ensure both the landlord and tenant have adequate access to legal protections.

Status in Charlottesville **Preliminary Assessments** Market Virginia laws prevent the City from establishing right to N/A counsel directly, but the City can provide funding for legal **Feasibility** services for tenants facing eviction Richmond has a pilot program to reduce eviction using pro Legal L – requires state advocacy or funding for a bono attorneys as in-court mediators, coupled with financial Feasibility voluntary program literacy education Political **Program Design Considerations** Feasibility **Legal services type:** The City can provide funding either for **Funding** legal services in court or for mediation TBD Capacity Amount of funding · Implementation partner: e.g. legal aid Organizational TBD Capacity **Anticipated** TBD

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Tenants' Rights Tool #2: Landlord Registry

Tenants' Rights | Landlord Registry

Require landlords to register and pay a fee for rental units

Status in Charlottesville inia law prevents Charlottesville from estab

- Virginia law prevents Charlottesville from establishing a required registry program, but the City could implement a voluntary registry.
- However, if registry is not tied to funding or other benefits, landlords have little incentive to participate.

Program Design Considerations

- Type of Registry: Mandatory reporting and registry of rental units, voluntary reporting, reporting tied to available funding (such as for repairs), business license fees
- Amount of Funding: To be impactful a program would need both funding and outreach to encourage participation.

P	reliminary Assessments
Market Feasibility	TBD
Legal Feasibility	L – state law limits what the City can do
Political Feasibility	TBD
Funding Capacity	L to M – a voluntary program would likely need to be tied to funding
Organizational Capacity	M – City staff would have to oversee the program
Anticipated Impact	Limited potential impacts due to prohibition on mandatory programs

HRA

1. Is the tool above something you would like to see used in Charlottesville
Yes
○ No
Maybe/I don't know
Other (please specify)

	perspective of commun		ity would support others)?		
13	Very supportive				
	Somewhat supportive				
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	A little supportive				
21 X	Not supportive at all				
	Not sure				
	t else do you want to te of using this tool? Do yo			eople be more sup _l	oortive th



Tenants' Rights Tool #3: Tenant Opportunity to Purchase

Tenants' Rights | Tenant Opportunity to Purchase

Allow tenants the opportunity to purchase a property and preserve its affordability at the time when an owner intends to sell

	Treates	20 5011	
	Status in Charlottesville	P	Preliminary Assessments
•	No existing program	Market Feasibility	TBD
		Legal Feasibility	TBD
_	Program Design Considerations	Political Feasibility	TBD
	Eligible properties (e.g. single-unit, 2- to 4- unit, 5+ unit) Length of negotiation period (and possibility of extensions), e.g. 120 days	Funding Capacity	TBD
	Definitions of good and bad faith offers, e.g. landlord obligation to offer terms at least as favorable as those offered to a third party Deposit requirement	Organizational Capacity	TBD
•	Tenant application requirements	Anticipated Impact	TBD

HR_&A

1. Is the tool above something you would like to see used in Charlottesville?
Yes
○ No
Maybe/I don't know
Other (please specify)

Very supportive Somewhat supportive Altitle supportive Not supportive at all Not sure What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive hers of using this tool? Do you have any questions about it?)		ree do you tnink the Ch of community leaders,		e use of this tool (conside
A little supportive Not supportive at all Not sure What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive	() Very supporti	ve .		
Not supportive at all Not sure What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive	Somewhat su	pportive		
Not sure What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive	A little suppor	tive		
What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive	Not supportiv	e at all		
What else do you want to tell us about this tool? (For example, would some people be more supportive	Not sure			
				pie be more supportive tr