

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Living Spaces"

Policy Letter 218: Balancing of Housing Needs

**BACKGROUND:**

Special needs residents, including college students, senior citizens, families with young children, developmentally disabled persons, and homeless people, should be provided adequate housing in the community. Special needs housing in some aspects is sufficient for the special needs residents of the community, but overall the special needs housing seems to be concentrating in specific neighborhoods.

Concentration of population groups can contribute to the physical deterioration of neighborhoods when the City over builds a neighborhood for population groups that are poverty residents. The downtown area, and the fringe of the downtown, are two areas of the community with concentration of almost ten times the number of special needs residents in poverty. Along with the physical deterioration that this concentration may cause, neighborhood businesses and schools have been impacted.

Special needs housing should be addressed in the Area Plan, land use development process to ensure both the needs of the residents are met, plus the needs of the neighborhood are considered.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The City of Fargo, through coordinated interjurisdictional efforts, should ensure a fair, equitable, and rational distribution of housing to meet the needs of several population groups. Siting of special needs housing should be consistent throughout the community.

**CONCLUSION:**

Over building a neighborhood for poverty residents or concentrating population groups can invite future problems or conflicts for the City. The Area Plan can guide future siting of special needs housing, but programs must continue to promote renovation of sites that have considered all aspects of the resident, plus that of the neighborhood.

\* See also Policy 212