

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The charge of the Council is to “create and implement a plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the State of New Hampshire.” (2020-22 Executive Order). To achieve this, the Council has set the following as its North Star:

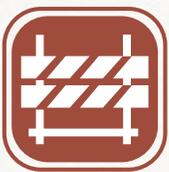
**Homelessness is rare, brief and one-time;
Increased housing availability is critical for NH’s future
—Increase housing units by 13,500 by 2024.**

The following objectives and targets were created to achieve and measure the North Star goals.



Objective 1: Promote increased housing stability at the state and local levels by improving crisis response, services infrastructure and policies that support individuals and families to maintain housing in their community.

There are critical first steps that can be taken to help families stay in their homes and in their communities. This objective will support statewide improvements to how existing programs coordinate and communicate together to respond in real time before people lose their home and have compounded difficulties in securing a next stable home. National best practices around foreclosure and homelessness prevention involve flexible resources that can help households for more than one month overcome an economic crisis. Additional policy changes are also needed to empower tenants to get into good standing with a landlord or prepare for future housing needs.



Objective 2: Remove regulatory barriers to affordable housing in order to expand New Hampshire’s housing market for all persons with special emphasis on affordable, accessible options and using innovative approaches.

New Hampshire communities have room to improve the policy and economic environment that promotes the creation of housing that is affordable to all residents. The time is now to work creatively and comprehensively to ensure that each community is contributing to the solutions of the affordable housing crisis, which can begin with improving how, where, and what types development activities are approved at the community level.



Objective 3: Increase production of publicly-financed affordable housing with supportive services.

The solution to an unmet housing need is to spur production through direct financing. Direct investment of existing and new funding sources into housing activities for the lowest incomes is a vital role for the public sector that helps guide the private sector into leveraged investment. In particular for people with no home, New Hampshire will draw upon local and national best practices in financing, capacity building, and operation of supportive housing.



Objective 4: Deploy targeted financial incentives or tax off-sets designed to promote private-market housing production and use of existing structures for rental housing that is affordable to the lowest-incomes and households in need of on-going community support.

New Hampshire's housing economy is a significant stakeholder in achieving housing stability for residents. In recognition of the need to increase the inclusion of tenant populations that fall outside of traditional development activities, the state will consider financing incentives that promote financial feasibility of creating affordable housing.



Objective 5: Achieve a productive legislative strategy for the 2022 session that supports efforts to increase housing production.

Affordable housing has become synonymous with insufficient, undesirable housing that negatively impacts community living. This in turn diminishes the call to action for state policy solutions that set the direction for all other actions on housing stability. In reality, all families need housing that is affordable to them, so that they can afford other costs of living such as child care, health care, transportation, and healthy food. Housing is a foundation for health, wellness, and economic stability in communities. Affordable housing development activities are real economic investments and quality; well-managed properties contribute to community vitality.



Objective 6: Integrate and coordinate a housing stability governance structure connecting state government with local communities through needs assessments, strategic initiatives, and data-driven decision-making.

The Action Plans will require on-going, targeted support to achieve the range and depth of strategies entailed herein. New Hampshire will build upon its regional strengths to support on-going problem solving, planning, and establishing affordable housing priorities across the state.

To realize the goals that **homelessness is rare, brief and one-time** and to **increase housing availability by 2024 with 13,500 additional New Hampshire units**, the Council developed this three-year strategic plan based on recommendations made by the Council and its workgroups.