



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Council On Housing Stability
Strategic Plan 2021-2024

November 1, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State House
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Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Representative Sherman Packard, Speaker
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street, Room 311
Concord, NH 03301

Senator Jeb Bradley, President
New Hampshire State Senate
107 North Main Street, Room 302
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Paul C. Smith, House Clerk
State House, Room 317
107 North Main Street
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Tammy L. Wright, Senate Clerk
107 N Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Michael York, State Librarian
20 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301

In accordance with the State of New Hampshire RSA 4-H:4, we are submitting the Annual Report for the Council on Housing Stability (Council). This November 2023 report updates the activities related to the 2021 Strategic Plan.

The Council continues to move forward with important strategies to increase overall housing in New Hampshire, provide support to assist those experiencing homelessness to access housing and continue expanding and supporting local communities to strengthen their housing efforts. While we have made progress in New Hampshire; there is still work to be done. The work of the Council has created a space for meaningful and deep conversations that inform the measurable state-wide strategy and brought together multiple partners to solve this complex yet critical need in our state. Our work is not done, and our work may never be done, yet entering the final year of the three-year strategic plan, there is much to celebrate, much to calibrate, and continued work to elevate. The Council welcomes the opportunity to meet with you to review this report and discuss this critical work further.



Taylor Caswell
Commissioner
Department of Business
and Economic Affairs



Christine Santaniello
Associate Commissioner
Department of Health
and Human Services



Katherine Easterly Martey
Executive Director
Community Development
Finance Authority

Members of the Council on Housing Stability

MEMBER	REPRESENTING
Miles Whitner	Two individuals, one being a parent and one being a young adult, who has current and/or recent lived experience with housing instability
Kadyja Harris	Two individuals, one being a parent and one being a young adult, who has current and/or recent lived experience with housing instability
Chris Santaniello	Commissioner - Department of Health and Human Services or designee
Robert Quinn	Commissioner - Department of Safety
Andre Briere	Commissioner - Department of Transportation
Taylor Caswell	Commissioner - Department of Business & Economic Affairs
Drew Holmes	Commissioner - Department of Corrections or designee
Andrew Dorsett	Commissioner - Department of Business & Economic Affairs, Designee
Noah Hodgetts	Commissioner - Department of Business & Economic Affairs, Designee
George Copadis	Commissioner - Department of Employment Security
Warren Perry	Commissioner - Department of Military Affairs and Veteran Services
Rob Dapice	NH Housing & Finance Authority
Katy Easterly Martey	Community Development Finance Authority
Melissa Hatfield	Bureau Chief of Bureau of Homeless Services
Katja Fox	Director of the Division for Behavioral Health Services or designee
Karen Hebert	Director of the Division of Economic Stability or designee
Mandy Lancaster	NH's Continuum of Care - Waypoint
Michael Reinke	One representative of each of NH's Continuum of Care for Housing, designated by each continuum
Patte Ardizzoni	One representative of each of NH's Continuum of Care for Housing, designated by each continuum
Robert Mack	Representative of the New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators' Association
Christina Dotson	A representative of the NHDE responsible for programs for children experiencing homelessness
Chris Schleyer	Representative of NH Landlord's
Joshua Reap	Representative of NH Builder's
Elissa Margolin	Representative of Housing Action New Hampshire
Anne Duncan Cooley	Representative of a County Economic Development Council
Maggie Pritchard	Representative of the Community Mental Health Association
Dominique Rust	Representative of the faith based community
Amanda Grady Sexton	One member from the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence nominated by the Coalition.
Sue Fulton	Two representatives of the philanthropic community with expertise in housing instability
Ben Amsden	Two representatives of the philanthropic community with expertise in housing instability
Rep. William Infantine	Three legislators, one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President and one by the Speaker of the House
Senator James Gray	Three legislators, one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President and one by the Speaker of the House
Harrison Kanzler	Any other individual or representative of an organization or entity that the Governor deems appropriate to support the work of the Council
Mayor Jim Bouley	Three mayors, or their designees, representing different regions of NH
Mayor George Hansel	Three mayors, or their designees, representing different regions of NH
Andrew Hosmer	Three mayors, or their designees, representing different regions of NH
Eric Adams	Representative from a law enforcement agency

Overview of Strategic Plan

The New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability, led by the New Hampshire Departments of Health and Human Services, Business and Economic Affairs, and the Community Development Finance Authority, was established by Governor Christopher T. Sununu under Executive Order 2020-22 on November 18, 2020, and codified into law in 2023. The council includes stakeholders from across the state, including State leadership, mayors, providers, and people with lived experience.

Under this order, the Council developed New Hampshire's first three-year strategic plan to promote housing stability and tackle homelessness for residents of the Granite State.

In creating this plan, the Council developed the following vision statements to inform the work:

- Housing ends homelessness and creates stability for children, adults, families, businesses, and communities
- Greater access to affordable housing will assist New Hampshire businesses and strengthen the state's economy
- Individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability often have other conditions impacting their circumstances
- Housing stability is one of the Social Determinants of Health and is essential for all children, adults, and families to thrive in New Hampshire
- Investing in housing is a better solution for individuals, families, and communities creating improved health, social, educational, and economic outcomes
- Needed services and support should be delivered in each community based on the unique assets, resources, strengths, challenges, and needs unique to each area of the state.

The Council developed a Three-year Strategic Plan to address homelessness with objectives and associated actions. This report encompasses work through the first two years of the plan and what the focus will be for the final year of the plan.

When developing the plan, the Council followed a set of guiding principles to ensure the integrity of the planning and implementation process – all objectives and actions were person-centered, data-driven, equity-aware, and led with lived experience. Also, the objectives and actions aimed to align with other relevant statewide plans, including the New Hampshire Ten-Year Mental Health Plan.

The Three-Year Strategic Plan Objectives include:

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.
2. Remove regulatory barriers to affordable housing to expand New Hampshire's housing market for all persons with special emphasis on affordable, accessible options and using innovative approaches.
3. Increase production of publicly-financed affordable housing with supportive services.

The Council has successfully advanced the objectives outlined in Exhibit A, Achievements and Aspirations. Some of the 2023 Year in Review: Achievements and Aspirations reached when advancing these objectives include the following:

Removing Regulatory barriers to promote housing successes:

- State and Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- The New Hampshire Zoning Atlas
- Adoption of the Fair Share Housing Model Estimated Production Numbers
- The NH Housing Toolbox
- Legislative Developments

Promoting increased housing stability through successful collaborations:

- Training Library
- Engagement Center
- Wintering Sheltering

Advanced the integration and coordination of a housing stability governance structure:

- Continuum of Care Collaboration
- Fair Housing Advisory Council
- The Lived Experience
- NH Housing Approved by HUD As A Moving to Work (MTW) Agency
- DHHS integrated leadership for housing and mental health services

Increasing publicly financed housing successes:

- Landlord Incentive Program
- Affordable Housing Incentive Program
- Veteran Homelessness Initiative
- Recovery Housing
- InvestNH Program

The achievements are further described in the following pages of the report.

Inspire: Strategy for New Hampshire's Future

Looking ahead, the Council will explore unique ways to capture homelessness numbers beyond the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count issued every January. The Council recognizes that there are limitations to this number, and increased work in this will assist local communities.

The Council will also seek improved solutions to the current need for permanent supportive housing. In the next year, we will convene key stakeholders to address this issue, reviewing the state's needs and highlighting best practices. This discussion will elevate the good work happening statewide and how to expand and replicate best practices.

Finally, the Council has identified the need to understand the inventory of undeveloped units/building permits. Currently, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) tracks building permits. However, the Council wants to quantify how many permits are developed into completed projects. It is important to understand the barriers to the completion of projects in an effort to reduce and remove these.

Bring Solutions

In the year ahead, the Council's work will focus on engaging and sharing best practices with municipalities in the State of New Hampshire to reduce homelessness by providing tools and resources to assist local communities and municipalities to think through unique housing opportunities that could increase housing availability, such as cohabitation and vacant commercial space.

The Council will also consider the following in the next year:

- Technical assistance and training to support the removal of local zoning barriers related to zoning, land use policy, regulations, and planning.
- Increased funding for the New Hampshire housing champion designation program.
- Fair Housing: Assessment of current practices to create strategies to increase trust and confidence in program administration.
- Enhanced outreach to local communities, including expanded access to information about solutions to increase local capacity to develop housing.
- Continuing to ensure that we are capturing and sharing coordination of care best practices through the development of the training library.
- Continuing to incorporate the voice of those who are experiencing homelessness into our work.
- Make recommendations to the Legislature for organizational changes to the Council.

Significant Highlights and Achievements

Removing Regulatory Barriers to Promote Housing Successes

State and Regional Housing Needs Assessment

As the State continues to navigate housing challenges, per NH State Statute, RSA 36:47, NH's Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) developed [regional assessments](#), and New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) worked with Root Policy Research to establish a [statewide analysis of New Hampshire's housing market](#). Both organizations collaborated with the [Department of Business and Economic Affairs \(BEA\)](#) to conduct the assessments, which will inform housing development and needs on both a state and local level. This is the first time statewide numbers will guide communities to reach their local goals and illustrate how a collective impact model can positively shape the future of housing in New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Zoning Atlas

The National Zoning Atlas Project (www.zoningatlas.org) is a new initiative creating state-by-state datasets on specific land-use regulations affecting housing at the level of the zoning district. Connecticut completed the first atlas. (www.desegregatect.org/atlas).

Inspired by this project, The NH Zoning Atlas was developed through a collaboration between BEA, Saint Anselm College's The Center for Ethics in Society, and New Hampshire Housing. The Atlas defines New Hampshire's zoning, community-by-community, district by district. The extensive database also features an interactive map highlighting the zoning restrictions impacting housing production across the state.

Adoption of the Fair Share Housing Model Estimated Production Numbers

In an unprecedented vote, [New Hampshire's Council on Housing Stability](#) unanimously adopted the State's Fair Share Housing Production Model's estimated production numbers developed through a collaboration between the state's nine [Regional Planning Commissions \(RPC\)](#) and New Hampshire Housing (NHHFA). The Model was funded by the [Community Development Finance Authority \(CDFA\)](#) and coordinated by staff at the [BEA](#). This is the first time statewide numbers will guide local communities to reach their housing production goals.

The Fair Share Housing Production Model estimates a community's anticipated housing production need based on that area's projected population and employment growth and projects that the State of New Hampshire will need an additional 88,363 housing units by 2040.

Fair Share Cumulative Net New Housing Units

	2025	2030	2035	2040
Auburn	142	262	343	388
Bedford	572	1,044	1,374	1,581
Candia	102	187	245	277
Chester	115	212	278	315
Deerfield	85	156	204	231
Derry	848	1,559	2,043	2,309
Francestown	35	65	85	98
Goffstown	459	837	1,101	1,267
Hooksett	357	656	857	968
Londonderry	609	1,121	1,469	1,660
Manchester	3,171	5,787	7,605	8,738
New Boston	144	264	347	399
Weare	230	419	551	634
Windham	343	631	826	935
SNHPC	7,212	13,197	17,327	19,800
NH	32,704	59,919	77,969	88,363

Source: Root Policy Research

[The NH Housing Toolbox](#)



The New Hampshire Housing Toolbox was developed through the coordinated efforts of the New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development and executed with assistance from Outwith Studio. The initiative was supported by the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant and was part of the New Hampshire Regional Planning Commissions' [Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#) issued earlier this year.

The toolbox compiles planning and zoning strategies to increase housing production throughout New Hampshire. After the toolbox was launched, regional planners developed and offered virtual training sessions to explore the resources' specific tools and strategies for implementation.

Legislative Developments

[New Hampshire Senate Bill 110](#) passed and became effective on September 26, 2023.

This legislation reflects the most significant change to [RSA165](#) and the local welfare system, including language mandating that local welfare departments seek to improve coordination and communication with each other.

The State Operating Budget for 2024-2025 included funding for housing initiatives that also advanced the Council's priorities. The Historic Housing Investments included the following:

- \$25 million for the [Affordable Housing Fund](#)
- \$10 million for InvestNH
- \$10 million for a funding increase for homeless services, and
- \$5 million for a new municipal incentive program, [New Hampshire housing champion designation](#) initiative

The New Hampshire housing champion designation program is a newly established voluntary program within the [NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs](#) recognizing municipal efforts that create increased affordable housing. Endorsed by the [NH Municipal Association](#), the [Business and Industry Association of NH](#), the [NH Bankers Association](#); the [New Hampshire Association of Realtors](#); the [NH Lodging and Restaurant Association](#); and [Housing Action NH](#), the program establishes qualifications for municipalities to be designated “housing champions” by the [Department of Business and Economic Affairs](#). Recognition can be obtained by improving zoning and regulations; Training local land use board members; Supporting water/sewer and other infrastructure improvements through grant opportunities; and providing economic development incentives related to housing development.

Promoting Increased Housing Stability Successful Collaborations

Training Library

A formal agreement was solidified this summer between JSI Research and CDFA to develop a web-based resource library in collaboration with the NH Coalition to End Homelessness. JSI Research and CDFA to develop house webinars and a menu of tools and resources for all service providers in New Hampshire working to prevent homelessness.

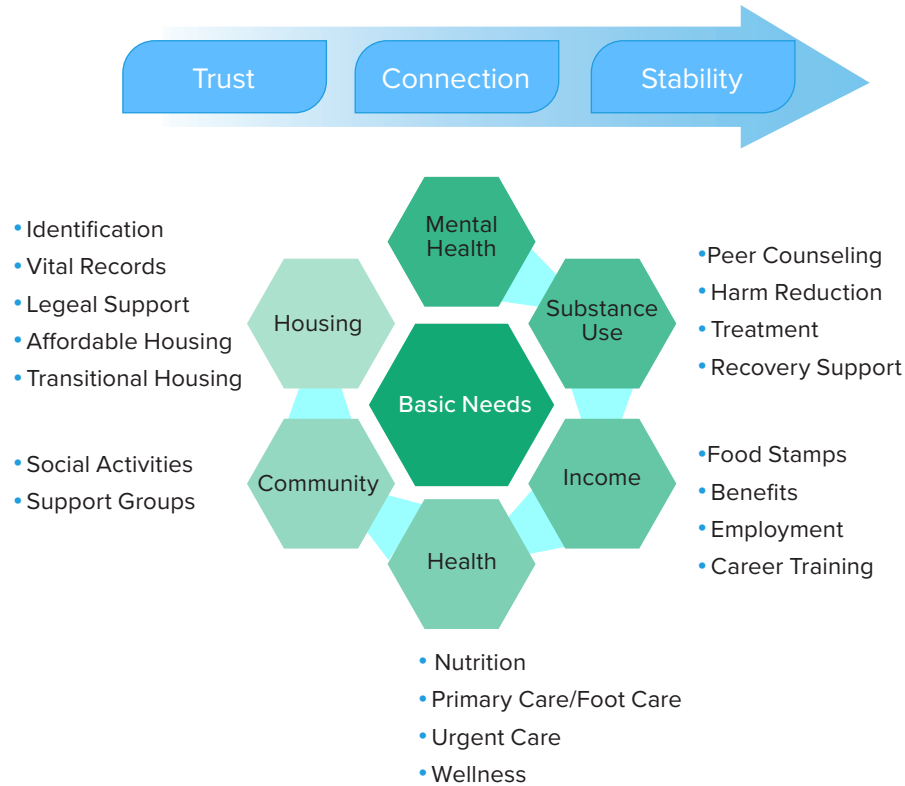
Project leadership will bring together an advisory committee that includes Continuum of Care leaders (Nashua, Manchester, and Balance of State), BHS, landlord incentive program leads, and health partners to identify the needs and the goals of the project and serve as a guide and sounding board as the website content is curated, developed, and promoted. The project also encompasses a landscape analysis and survey to understand better what resources exist and what is needed. The current scope of work supports a completion date of May 2024.

Engagement Center

At the end of September, the City of Manchester opened a city-wide engagement center to serve the approximately 375 adult individuals currently unhoused in the City, with a particular focus on the 140 individuals who are unsheltered. The new space provides individuals with low-barrier access to showers, restrooms, meals, and clothing, as well as supportive services to address substance abuse disorders and mental health issues.

The Center's clients will also be encouraged to access job search counseling and housing navigation support. The new center offers a critical opportunity to collaborate with other community partners to support its participants comprehensively.

Supporting 80-100 people daily, the Center is located at 39 Beech St. in Manchester, NH, and will be open seven days a week.



Winter Sheltering

On September 9, 2022, the Joint Fiscal Committee approved \$1 million for one-time grants for a cold weather response and \$4 million for the existing homeless shelters under contract with DHHS for COVID-19-related costs.

Using these funds from the Governor's Office of Economic Relief and Recovery (GOFERR), the Department of Health and Human Services developed winter sheltering solutions across the state for the winter of 2022-2023. Funding was distributed to one provider in each of New Hampshire's counties. Solutions were custom to the resources and needs of each county, and 1,213 people were served across the ten counties.

In the current biennium budgets, funds were appropriated by the Legislature to continue this program during the winters of State Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. \$10M was added to the Department of Health and Human Services budget to increase funding for shelter programs (\$8M) and fund winter shelter programs (\$2M) statewide.

Advanced the Integration and Coordination of a Housing Stability Governance Structure

Continuum of Care Collaboration

In response to needs expressed by the Bureau of Homeless Services (BHS), with the support of the Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCO) Executive Committee, work began this year to create a governance charter between all three Continuums of Care in hopes of increasing collaboration and creating streamlining governance. Transparent and clear governance is a central requirement of HUD for Continuums of Care, and this more formal agreement will document and strengthen the existing ways that the CoCs operate through communication and planning activities. Ultimately this will strengthen the collaboration between organizations for rapid rehousing of those needing housing.

Fair Housing Advisory Council

In August 2023, NH Housing and the CDFA jointly established the Fair Housing Advisory Council, consisting of eight individuals with connections to groups that are underserved in today's housing market.

The group was formed in response to the 2020 report, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in New Hampshire, which identified and analyzed barriers to equal access to housing. One of the primary recommendations of the report was that New Hampshire establish a fair housing advisory panel to review the state's progress on addressing the impediments to fair housing identified in the report and to report emerging issues.

The advisory council provides vital feedback to NH Housing, CDFA, and other interested parties, to inform the state's efforts to address discrimination and inequities in the housing sector adversely impacting historically marginalized and underserved communities. The group will also share its findings with the state's Housing and Community Development Planning Council and other entities, such as the state's Council on Housing Stability.

The Lived Experience

The NH Coalition to End Homelessness Granite Leader Program builds leadership skills within the community of people who have lived experience as formerly homeless, increasing their capacity to take on influential roles on issues pertinent to their lives. Through a free educational program in New Hampshire, selected participants learn specific skills and interact with widely recognized leaders on the local, state, and national levels.

Upon completing the program, graduates become part of a network of skilled leaders focused on improving the quality of life in communities across New Hampshire.

Topics include legislative process, advocacy skills, media and communications, and how to participate and be engaged on a Board or Council/Coalition level of involvement. Granite Leader graduates join a network of Granite Leader Alumni to continue to collaborate, share opportunities, and engage with peers for the best advocacy impact.

NHCEH hosted a successful 2023 Granite Leaders program in early June, providing an intensive four-day training program focused on building the leadership, communications, and advocacy skills for six inspiring individuals who have experienced homelessness and have a deep desire to use their voices to help create change. With this new class, NHCEH's cohort of Granite Leader Alumni now totals 46.

Highlights of 2023 include:

- Two Granite Leaders are members of the New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability, representing people with lived experience. These members are actively engaged in the work of the Council and currently working to launch a Lived Experience Advisory Board.
- Two Granite Leaders serve on the NHCEH Board of Directors.
- A few Granite Leaders are key stakeholders in developing and implementing the New Hampshire Youth Success Board to address youth and young adult homelessness in the state.
- Granite Leaders have been interviewed by media outlets in New Hampshire, including NHPR, WMUR, and other media outlets. One Granite Leader was interviewed by WMUR, discussing how his experience with homelessness impacted his life.

Other alumni engagement has included:

- Granite Leaders join the NH Coalition to End Homelessness at countless trainings at universities, housing summits, and community forums to raise awareness of homelessness in our communities.
- Granite Leaders represent and volunteer on multiple non-profit boards and committees.
- Granite leaders have testified at NH Legislative hearings.
- Granite Leaders have been panelists at national and local conferences for educating a variety of providers and stakeholders.
- One Granite Leader utilized a national blog forum to share her experiences with homelessness to raise awareness.

Youth Success Project (YSP) is in its second year of operation and comprises young adults with lived experience in homelessness. The organization focuses on ending youth homelessness in New Hampshire. Through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, we continue to develop a coordinated community plan to end youth homelessness and establish new youth-serving programs by better understanding the demographics and unmet needs of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire.

ART: YSP is currently compiling written and visual art pieces from YYA, who have experienced unaccompanied homelessness in New Hampshire. These pieces of reflection will be compiled into an Art Book that will be subsequently published. Through its publication, YSP seeks to raise awareness about YYA homelessness.

EDUCATION: YSP is collaborating with The New Hampshire Department of Education to develop trainings for McKinney Vento liaisons on Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Adulthood/Youth Engagement, working to develop a cohort of high school-age YSP members who will work on making changes in how their schools respond to and address homelessness.

HIGHER EDUCATION: YSP is working with colleges and universities to establish single points of contact (SPOCs) who respond to and support students experiencing homelessness while pursuing their higher educational goals.

OUTREACH: YSP is building connections in central New Hampshire and working with youth in that area to identify and develop a project that raises awareness/responds to the unique needs of YYA experiencing homelessness in that rural region.

NH Housing Approved by HUD As A Moving to Work Agency

Using Federal funding, the US Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program provides organizations with the opportunity to develop and implement unique strategies that help residents become self-sufficient in hopes of increasing housing options for low-income families.

The MTW initiative has three statutory objectives, including 1) reducing costs and achieving greater administrative flexibilities, 2) incentivizing families to become economically self-sufficient, and 3) increasing housing choices for eligible low-income families.

Some of the administrative flexibilities include waivers of certain regulations in the Housing Choice Voucher program, including the ability to set the payment standard between 80% - 120% of the Fair Market Rent to increase housing opportunities for voucher holders, the option to conduct annual reexaminations of client information every two years, and the option to conduct Housing Quality Standard inspections every three years.

NH Housing was designated by HUD as a Moving to Work Agency in 2023. The programs noted below will launch in January 2024 to meet the MTW objectives:

The **Creating Assets through Saving Habits (CASH)** program will randomly select 500 participants to enroll in a 24-month program. Each participating household will receive \$25 deposited monthly into an escrow savings account. As participants begin their journey of savings and investment in themselves, the goals of this program include increasing the number of households with bank accounts, strengthening financial stability through asset building, increasing financial literacy and budgeting skills, and developing their ability to live within a household budget.

The **Striving Towards Economic and Personal Success (STEPS)** program combines Housing Choice Voucher assistance with education and support for families who want to increase their earned income by connecting households with resources to maintain employment, job training, educational programs, or programs that assist people to obtain employment and become economically self-sufficient for up to six consecutive months. Families participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program are qualified to participate in this program.

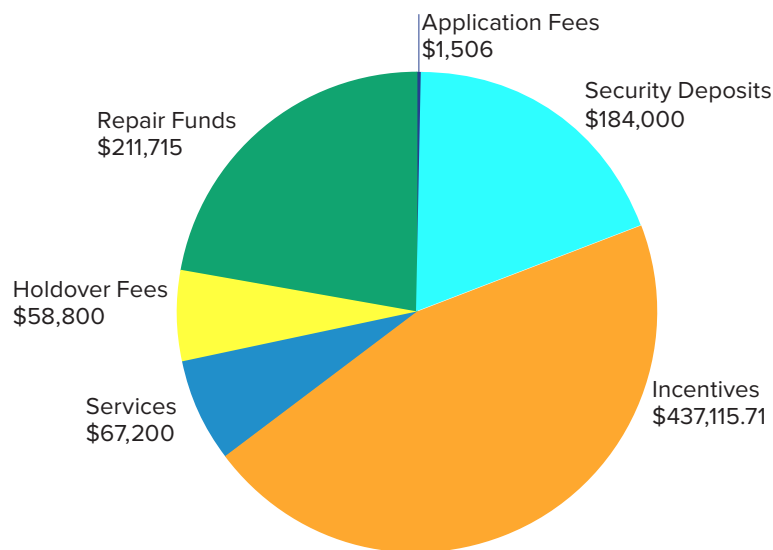
DHHS integrated leadership for housing and behavioral health services

In January of 2023, New Hampshire's Department of Health and Human Services transitioned the Bureau of Homeless Services into the Division for Behavioral Health. This move has improved coordination and leveraged resources between homeless services, mental health services, and SUD/recovery services.

Increasing Publicly Financed Housing Successes

Landlord Incentive Program

Launched in February of 2023, the Landlord Incentive Task Force initiative engaged six different landlord incentive programs across the state, including Keene, Manchester, Concord, the Greater Seacoast Region, and two state-wide programs run by the Bureau of Homeless Services (BHS) and NHHFA. Across all six programs, financial payments, or “incentives,” were provided to landlords when they entered into a lease with a tenant who uses a rental assistance voucher. The incentives encourage landlords to rent to tenants who have vouchers by providing resources to make required changes to the unit, and cover unoccupied rental days or damages. As of July 2023, 497 units were impacted, and the incentives totaled \$960,336.71.



The total amount invested in assisting these units is estimated at \$960,336.71.

Beyond these incentives, the program analysis included a comprehensive data review, focus groups, and surveys to learn about the role of incentives in meeting the program goals, limitations, and the benefits of securing more low-income households into housing.

It was immediately identified that increased funding is required for tenant and landlord protections, continued education, and improved support services. The financial payments also attracted new owners to the rental assistance program and expanded overall utilization and engagement.

The Council will continue to explore the implications of this analysis, including program shifts and strategies for expansion.

Review of Recommendations



Target incentive payments towards new landlords.



Offer staffing for tenant-landlord communication, education and mediation support.



Including Vacancy Payments/Unit Holds and Repair Funds.



Allocate funds to support tenant needs such as security deposit and moving cost assistance.

Affordable Housing Incentive Program



A focus for the Council this past year is understanding that people moving from homelessness often need support to obtain and maintain housing. It is not enough to provide a person with the name of a landlord, as oftentimes, support is needed to access and remain in housing. The Council established goals to increase this service statewide and has been successful thus far, knowing more is needed.

Since June 1, 2023, Affordable Housing Incentive Program (AHIP) Occupancy Assistance has provided critical support to help stabilize 20 individuals in 16 permanent housing units in Rockingham, Strafford, and Merrimack Counties. Assistance provided included \$15,419 dollars in rental arrears, \$871 in current or future rent payments (e.g., first month's rent), \$1,572.82 in utility arrears, and \$2,396 in security deposit assistance.

An additional eleven households are in the process of tenant selection or undergoing renovations required to pass the HUD's Housing Quality Standards Inspection to ensure the unit is ready for occupancy.

The 16 units that are currently occupied provide housing for 20 individuals who previously were homeless, either residing in an emergency shelter (15), couch surfing (4), or unsheltered (1). An additional 23 units are referred to the program across Strafford, Belknap, and Merrimack Counties.

A total of 16 unique landlords have enrolled units or received financial support from AHIP occupancy assistance in Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap, and Merrimack Counties. A total of five unique agencies have provided ongoing housing stability services to the 20 tenants residing in AHIP units.

Granite United Way's Affordable Housing Incentive Program

[AHIP Tenant Spotlight: Samantha's Story](#)

[AHIP Tenant Spotlight: Jessica's Story](#)

Veteran Homelessness Initiative

The Balance of State (BoS) Veterans Steering Committee convenes regularly to identify and establish best practices to end veteran homelessness in the State of New Hampshire. Using the Ending Veteran Homelessness Project Charter as a framework for its goals, the Committee issues a summary of outcomes at the Ending Veteran Homelessness Summit each June, collecting information on gaps, challenges, and opportunities to inform the Charter the following year.

This year's progress includes a small pilot program initiated at the Summit titled "50 in 5". This project aims to permanently house 50 veterans from the Summit through Veteran's Day 2024. As of October 2023, the initiative had exceeded its goal and housed 57 veterans!

Currently, the Committee maintains 110 Veterans on the Active List who are considered homeless, of which 36 are unsheltered and 74 are in Emergency Shelter/ Transitional Housing programs.

Recovery Housing



Year to Date, New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences (NHCORR) has certified 93 houses. This represents 1,181 beds for people in recovery across the state. During FY23 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), seven houses lost their certification due to not meeting national standards, a change of use, or the sale of the house.

Generally, Recovery Housing (RH) falls along the I-93 corridor. This past year NHCORR saw expansion into Claremont and North Conway. However, there are still significant areas that are underserved in NH. For example, there is a severe lack of housing in Rockingham and Coos counties. While there remains no RH for women west of I-93, a new house was developed for LGBTQ+ residents, and another level 1 house was developed for multigender housing.

Even with the significant increase in NHCORR-certified recovery houses, most houses have long waiting lists. However, great strides are being made in collaborating with towns and communities about recovery housing. NHCORR and others will continue to reach out to towns to explain the benefits of recovery housing, including good neighbor standards, a reliable workforce, dependable taxpayers, and a drug and alcohol-free community.

Invest NH Program

Governor Sununu's \$100 million InvestNH initiative, created with federal American Rescue Plan funds, which included a \$60 million Capital Grant Program to provide flexible gap funding to developers (including \$10 million to NH Housing), a \$30 million Municipal Per Unit Grant Program and a \$5 million Municipal Demolition Grant Program, is helping to fund the construction of 2,330 new units of multifamily rental housing including 1,153 units affordable to households earning less than 80% AMI. These units are located in 60 projects in 32 communities throughout the state. These funds have augmented other federal, state, and local funding programs administered by NH Housing and CDFA, resulting in the creation of more than 2,330 new units in aggregate. Additional details about housing units financed by NH Housing can be found in the New Hampshire Housing FY 23 Annual Report.

The InvestNH initiative also included a \$5 million Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant program which provides funding through the Housing Opportunity Planning Grant Program to 58 communities to understand their housing needs, analyze, and update their land use regulations to help increase housing development opportunities. 47 communities have received a Phase 1 HOP grant to update the housing-related chapters of their master plan or complete a municipal housing needs assessment. 33 communities have received a Phase 2 HOP grant to analyze their land use regulations and complete a regulatory audit. 27 communities have received a Phase 3 HOP grant to update their land use regulations/zoning ordinance and develop new innovative planning tools, which lower regulatory barriers to new housing development. 11 New Hampshire communities are also being supported by a Community Housing Navigator funded through the InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant program. Five full-time Community Navigators are working with these 11 communities focused on housing development, regulatory change, and community engagement. Of the 11 communities supported by a Community Housing Navigator grant, 10 have applied for a HOP grant. Six of the eleven have been awarded a HOP grant, while four requests are pending, awaiting the allocation of additional funds to the program. The work being done in these communities lowers the regulatory barriers for future housing development funded by both private and public sources and unlocks opportunities across the state.