



New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability

CDFA was appointed to lead the New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability alongside the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Established by Governor Christopher Sununu with [Executive Order 2020-22](#) on November 18, 2020, and codified into law in 2023.

The Council brings together a broad base of [diverse stakeholders](#) from across the state, including State leadership, mayors, providers, and people with lived experience. The purposes of developing and implementing a plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the State of New Hampshire. In doing so, the Council is tasked with addressing a complex set of challenges and providing short- and long-term recommendations to support planning, policy and resource allocation for statewide, regional and local community-based efforts.

Advanced Strategies and Increased Impact

The Council on Housing Stability released its [2024 Annual Report](#) and [Year in Review](#), highlighting progress made towards realizing the goals, objectives and implementation activities outlined in its [three-year Strategic Plan](#) adopted in June 2021. The Council continues to advance its goals through focused workgroup activities, new collaborations, supporting innovative programs, raising policy considerations, creating unique funding opportunities, elevating the voices of individuals with lived experience, and aligning strategies to have the greatest impact on the State of New Hampshire.

In 2024, the Council worked seamlessly to integrate data and strategies with a whole-person approach across health, economic development, and community development areas. The resulting reports demonstrate an increased awareness of housing as a core social determinant of personal health and well-being, as well as a commitment to advancing strategies that are proven to increase housing production and stability with a focus on innovation across a diverse set of partners.

Today, New Hampshire is working more collaboratively than ever before to address housing needs. The Council has led through its coordination, advocacy and collaborative table several critical housing initiatives in 2024.

In State Fiscal Year 2025, the Council will develop its 2025-2028 strategic plan and explore how to structure and sustain its work moving forward. The public can remain apprised of the Council's progress via its website: www.nhchs.org. Review all Council reports and resources: www.nhchs.org/resources/.

Supported Development of Statewide and Regional Housing Needs Assessment

The Council was presented an analysis of New Hampshire's housing needs and data trends, "[How Much Housing Does NH Need?](#)," based on regional and statewide reports released in March 2023.

The [statewide Housing Needs Assessment](#), published by New Hampshire Housing, provides an assessment of the state's housing market, housing needs, and projected housing demand. Additionally, each of the state's nine Regional Planning Commissions conducted their own [Housing Needs Assessments](#), which were a collaborative effort among the commissions, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, and New Hampshire Housing. All the studies emphasize the critical need to add additional housing units to stably house New Hampshire's current and projected population. The reports provide state and local decision-makers with tools, recommendations, and strategies to address housing issues in New Hampshire communities.

Adopted the Fair Share Housing Production Model

The Council [unanimously adopted the State's Fair Share Housing Production Model](#) in October 2023. The Fair Share Housing Production Model estimates a community's anticipated housing production need based on that area's projected population and employment growth. The model estimates the State of New Hampshire will need an additional 88,395 housing units by 2040. This is the first time statewide numbers will guide local communities to reach their housing production goals. CDFA funded the development of the model, which was coordinated by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and based on assessments by the state's nine [Regional Planning Commissions](#) and [New Hampshire Housing](#).

Stabilized Permanent Housing for 271 Individuals

The Council continues to deepen the 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, while also knowing more is needed.

Since June 1, 2023, [Affordable Housing Incentive Program](#) (AHIP) Occupancy Assistance has provided critical support to help stabilize individuals and households in Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap and Merrimack Counties. The program achieved the following outcomes:

- Stabilized 271 individuals with Occupancy Assistance Funds.
- Enrolled 92 rental units across Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap, and Merrimack with 88 of those units occupied, providing permanent, affordable housing for 160 individuals who were previously homeless.
- Served individuals experiencing unstable, substandard or rent-burdened housing, as well as those from emergency shelters, couch surfing, and living in unsheltered places or those not meant for habitation.
- Engaged 89 unique landlords that have enrolled units in the program or received financial support for occupancy. Provided ongoing housing stability services to the 160 tenants residing in enrolled units.
- Coordinated services through 19 unique agencies across Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap and Merrimack.

[AHIP Tenant Spotlight:](#)

[Samantha's Story](#)

[AHIP Tenant Spotlight:](#)

[Jessica's Story](#)

Developed Training and Resource Library

CDFA led the development of a web-based training and resource library in collaboration with JSI Research, the NH Coalition to End Homelessness, NH DHHS Bureau of Homeless Services, New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators' Association and community partners. These tools serve as resources for all service providers in New Hampshire working to prevent homelessness. The comprehensive resource hub includes more than 150 trainings and resources developed to: educate professionals and communities about housing best practices; foster information sharing; break down barriers; and promote accessibility. Visit endhomelessnessnh.org to explore and access resources.

Adopted Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments

The Council on Housing Stability has been guided by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH) Seven Principles for Addressing Encampments since its publication in 2022. Using "[All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)" as its framework, USICH has since collaborated with community partners, individuals with lived experience, and other key stakeholders to expand the principles and guidance that was previously established. The result was the release of "[USICH's 19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively](#)."

On June 26, 2024, the Council unanimously voted to adopt USICH's "19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively." These 19 strategies will guide the Council on Housing Stability's efforts to ensure housing stability for all New Hampshire citizens. Furthermore, these best practices will give our local communities the critical tools to educate leaders and develop appropriate housing solutions in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision regarding the [City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson et al](#) on June 28, 2024.

Advanced Collaborations and Resourcing Critical Programs

Additional impacts aligned with the Council's goals and objectives achieved since 2020 include:

- [InvestNH](#) funded \$60,000,000 to support the development of affordable housing.
- [New Hampshire's Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(NHERAP\)](#) expended over \$239 million to help more than 23,600 New Hampshire households remain in their homes by making payments to property owners and utility companies.
- Funded through a two-year, \$2.2 million grant through [HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#), [The Youth Success Project \(YSP\)](#) collaborated statewide, growing into a larger organization comprised of young people who have experienced homelessness and housing instability in New Hampshire without a parent or guardian.
- The first [New Hampshire Housing Caucus](#) was established within the Legislature to educate and inform lawmakers on New Hampshire's housing and homelessness issues.

- Held regional community conversations in Concord, Laconia, Lebanon, Haverhill and Keene, as well as a statewide [Housing Stability Summit](#), to help increase collaboration, identify opportunities and challenges, and connect statewide strategies with community needs.

The Council continues to collaborate with stakeholders across the State of New Hampshire to create housing stability for all citizens.