



HOUSING CHAMPION Designation and Grant Program

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DO NOT ENTER

Housing Champion Program

- Established by RSA 12-O:71-75, enabling communities designated as Housing Champions to access additional funding opportunities supporting development of affordable housing.
- Components include the opportunity for municipalities to achieve a Housing Champion Designation and four funding programs

Housing Champion Designation

HC Designation applicants must show dedication to encouraging and establishing workforce and other types of housing necessary economic development

HC Designation is voluntary and available to municipalities

Municipalities with HC Designation will have access to:

- State resources including discretionary infrastructure funds, as available
- Housing Champion Designees may receive funding for:
 - Housing Production Municipal Grant Program
 - Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant and Loan Program
unfunded in 2024-2025

Achieving Housing Champion Designation

HC Designation will be determined by a scoring system.
Points may be awarded in six categories.

The first four categories required:

- Adopt land use regulations
- Training land use board members
- Implementation of water and sewer infrastructure upgrades
- Implementation of transportation and walkability infrastructure
- Financial incentives
- Other activities supporting HC

Scoring

Minimum 80 points

- Adoption of land use regulations and ordinances
(max 40 points + 15 bonus points)
- Training land use board members
(max 25 points + 10 bonus points)
- Implementation of water and sewer infrastructure improvements
(max 25 points + 5 bonus points)
- Implementation of transportation and walkability infrastructure
(max 10 points + 4 bonus points)
- Financial incentives (max 10 points)
- Other activities (max 10 points + 10 bonus points)

Land Use Regulations/Ordinances-Scoring

	CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
LAND USE REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES - 40 POINTS MAX Satisfy minimum requirements of RSA 674:59 AND: Adoption of at least one of following eligible reg/ord.:	Workforce Housing	10
	Accessory Dwelling	10
	Cluster Development	10
	Form Base Code	10
	Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance	10
	Manufactured Housing Ordinance	10
	Missing Middle	10
	Mixed-Use Zoning	10
	Multi-family housing	10
	PUD	10
	Lot Size	10
	Dwelling Size	10
	Parking	10
	Transfer of Development Rights	10
Substitute land use regulations or ordinances - maximum 2 regulations	Substitute land use regulations	10
Bonus 15 Max	5 or more qualified land use regulations	10
	Communities with 10,000 or less residents per most recent US Census	15
No Adopted Zoning regulations	No zoning ordinance pursuant to RSA 674:16 but do not bar workforce housing	40

Accessory Dwelling Unit

- Allow at least one attached ADU as a matter of right in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings;
- Allow detached ADUs as a matter of right, by conditional use permit pursuant to RSA 674:21, or by special exception pursuant to RSA 674:33, IV, in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings;
- Not require more than one off-street parking space per ADU; and
- Comply with the requirements of RSA 674:72

Planning and Zoning Board Training-Scoring

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD TRAINING - 25 POINTS MAX	Regularly distribute training material	5
Training shall cover processes, procedures, regulations and statutes	Regularly facilitates its own or third-party training sessions with members	10
Offered, administered or facilitated by OPD, NHMA, RPC or NHPA	Majority of land use board members have received two hours of training	10
10 Bonus Max	Majority of planning board members (including alternates) completed ODP handbook test	5
	Majority of zoning board members (including alternates) completed ODP handbook test	5

Training



Participation by planning and zoning board members in the following sessions, which shall cover the processes, procedures, regulations, and statutes related to the board on which the member serves, may be used to qualify for training points:

Planning Lunches at Noon (PLAN) webinar presented by the New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development.

Annual Spring Planning & Zoning Conference presented by the New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development.

Sewer and Water Infrastructure - Scoring

SEWER AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - 25 POINTS MAX	Infrastructure Improvements:	
Eligible for completed, ongoing or planned projects support workforce housing dev.	Completed within the preceding six years	10
Wastewater, Sewerage, Water, Community well and Interconnection of water or sewer system.	Ongoing within preceding six years	10
	Planned improvements with plans for completion within nine years	5
	Planned improvements that lack funding	0
5 Bonus Max	Can accommodate 10% increase in housing above reported US Census	5
	Implemented water and sewer improvements in preceding six years in downtown or town center	5

Implementation of water and sewer infrastructure upgrades

Eligible infrastructure improvements, which are completed, ongoing or in the planning stage, and support workforce housing development, shall include wastewater and water treatment plant, sewerage, water distribution system, community wells, and interconnection of water or sewer systems as defined in BEA 502.



Completed within 6 years preceding Designation Application



Ongoing which will be completed within 6 years following Designation Application



Completed formal plan with an obligation to complete within 9 years following Designation Application



Planned which lack funding

Transportation Infrastructure - Scoring

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, SIDEWALKS AND WALKABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE - 10 POINTS MAX	Infrastructure Improvements:	
Eligible for completed, ongoing or planned projects support workforce housing dev.	Completed within the preceding six years	2
Bus service, sidewalk, complete street, share-use path, rail trail, recreation	Ongoing investment in the development or construction within preceding six years	2
	Planned improvements with plans for completion within nine years	2
4 Bonus Max	Adoption of Complete Street Program	2
	Implemented water and sewer improvements in preceding six years in downtown or town center	2

Public Transportation, Sidewalks and Walkability Infrastructure

Eligible infrastructure improvements for completed, ongoing or planned projects, which support workforce housing development, shall include fixed bus service; intercity bus service; on-demand transit service (not Uber); sidewalks; complete street; share-use path; rail trail; recreation trail; and activities funded under U.S. Department of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).



Completed within 6 years
preceding Designation
Application



Ongoing which will be
completed within 6 years
following Designation
Application



Completed formal plan
with an obligation to
complete within 9 years
following Designation
Application

Financial Tools - Scoring

FINANCIAL TOOLS INCENTIVIZING WORKFORCE HOUSING DEV. (Not required) - 10 POINTS MAX	Community Revitalization tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79-E)	5
	Municipal Revitalization and Economic Development District (RSA 162-K)	5
	Acquisition or sale of real property by the Municipality within the preceding 6 years preceding	5
	Affordable Housing Revolving fund (RSA 31:95-h)	5
	Establish a non-capital reserve fund or non-capital reserve trust fund	5

Financial Tools Incentivizing Workforce Housing Development

1. 5 points: Adoption of Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79-E) in downtown, town center, central business district or village center and guidelines which extend the period of tax relief for 2 years if project results in new residential units and extends 4 years if project includes affordable housing
2. 5 points: Adopt a Municipal Revitalization and Economic Development District (RSA 162-K) to establish at least one development district.
 - Establish a development program which includes within its purpose acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, altering, extending, operating, maintaining or promoting residential development aimed at increasing the available housing stock.
 - Establish a development program which includes within its purpose the acquisition of real property to construct workforce housing units within the municipality.
 - Establish a tax increment financing plan (RSA 162-K:9-10)

Other Activities - Scoring

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCENTIVIZING WORKFORCE HOUSING OR OTHER HOUSING (Not required)- 10 POINTS MAX	Establish a Housing Commission (RSA 674:44-h) or appointing members to commission	5	
	Interconnect community water systems for residential use	5	
	Joint municipal development and revitalization district with an adjacent municipality	5	
	Joint agreement with an adjacent municipality for shared infrastructure or services to support workforce housing	5	
	Receipt of HOP Grant or HPRM	5	
	Construction of units of workforce housing that resulted in a minimum of 5% increase in total housing units above those report in US Census during the preceding 3 years	5	
	Provide a narrative that supports the municipality's request for inclusion of activities which create or incentivize workforce housing and other housing necessary to economic development of the State	5	

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. 5 points: Establish a Housing Commission (RSA 674:44-h) or appointing members to commission (RSA 673:4-c); with regular meetings
2. 5 points: Interconnect community water systems for residential use
3. 5 points: Joint municipal development and revitalization district (RSA 162-K TIF District) with an adjacent municipality; implementation of development program
4. Joint agreement with an adjacent municipality for shared infrastructure or services to support workforce housing
5. Receipt of an InvestNH Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grant or HPRM

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Application are to be completed and submitted online.
2. Application are due November 15, 2024.
3. Application are not competitive.
4. Applications will be reviewed and scored on a rolling basis.
5. Applications will be made available in the spring of 2025.

Questions & Comments

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