

Housing Champions Program

Support Housing Champions; Oppose HB 1196



House Bill 1196 would eliminate the Housing Champions Program.

The New Hampshire Housing Champions Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program adopted by the state legislature in 2023. The objective is straightforward: New Hampshire should reward and support the communities that are taking steps to build more housing.

The program is administered by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Municipalities can submit an application seeking a “Housing Champion” designation. If a municipality meets the clear, measurable scoring criteria, it is eligible to become a “Housing Champion” and apply for grants to help fund infrastructure and develop solutions that work for the local community.

45%

Housing Trend Report; Department of
Business and Economic Affairs

*In 2024, the 28 Housing Champion communities
approved 2,643 units, or 45% of the total units
approved statewide*

Why This Matters

The Housing Champions program is working. Housing Champion communities are permitting new homes at a higher rate than non-Housing Champion communities and are making long-term regulatory changes that will continue to benefit the state of New Hampshire for years to come.

Infrastructure investments are critical to expanding housing options. In New Hampshire, only about 12 percent of buildable land has access to water or sewer infrastructure – and much of that infrastructure is aging. The Housing Champion Program creates a pathway for infrastructure funds to go towards the communities that are helping address our state’s housing shortage. HB 1196 jeopardizes the existing infrastructure grant funding that has been appropriated, but not expended.

This effective state and local partnership works in all corners of the state. The program is working for our most populous cities and rural communities.



Housing Champion Communities: Boscawen, Concord, Derry, Dover, Enfield, Exeter, Farmington, Gorham, Hampton, Hillsborough, Hinsdale, Hooksett, Jaffrey, Keene, Lebanon, Lincoln, Manchester, Meredith, Nashua, New London, Newmarket, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Rye, Salem, and Somersworth.

Infrastructure Grants

Concord: \$859,689 for sewer upgrades
Dover: \$859,689 for water main upgrade
Lebanon: \$158,805 for site improvements
Manchester: \$116,753 fire/electric improvements

Newport: \$234,375 for sewer feasibility
Rochester: \$411,000 for sewer and water upgrades
Salem: \$859,689 for water system