

# Housing Champions Program

LRPC Commissioner's Meeting

May 2025

Shanna B. Saunders

# 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

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# TITLE LXIV

## PLANNING AND ZONING

### CHAPTER 674

#### LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATORY POWERS

#### Workforce Housing

##### Section 674:59

##### **674:59 Workforce Housing Opportunities. –**

I. In every municipality that exercises the power to adopt land use ordinances and regulations, such ordinances and regulations shall provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for the development of workforce housing, including rental multi-family housing. In order to provide such opportunities, lot size and overall density requirements for workforce housing shall be reasonable. A municipality that adopts land use ordinances and regulations shall allow workforce housing to be located in a majority, but not necessarily all, of the land area that is zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality. Such a municipality shall have the discretion to determine what land areas are appropriate to meet this obligation. This obligation may be satisfied by the adoption of inclusionary zoning as defined in RSA 674:21, IV(a). This paragraph shall not be construed to require a municipality to allow for the development of multifamily housing in a majority of its land zoned to permit residential uses.

II. A municipality shall not fulfill the requirements of this section by adopting voluntary inclusionary zoning provisions that rely on inducements that render workforce housing developments economically unviable.

III. A municipality's existing housing stock shall be taken into consideration in determining its compliance with this section. If a municipality's existing housing stock is sufficient to accommodate its fair share of the current and reasonably foreseeable regional need for such housing, the municipality shall be deemed to be in compliance with this subdivision and RSA 672:1, III-e.

IV. Paragraph I shall not be construed to require municipalities to allow workforce housing that does not meet reasonable standards or conditions of approval related to environmental protection, water supply, sanitary disposal, traffic safety, and fire and life safety protection.

**Source.** 2008, 299:2, eff. Jan. 1, 2010.

1. A workforce housing ordinance shall:

- Allow for the development of multi-family workforce housing including rental housing containing 5 or more dwelling units as defined in RSA 674:58, II as a matter of right in a majority of the land area that is zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality;
- Not place requirements on minimum lot size and other dimensional requirements including height and parking requirements that are more restrictive than other types of allowed residential uses;
- Contain provisions which require the workforce housing units be subject to a deed restriction as defined in Bea 502.13, requiring a long-term affordability covenant of no less than 10 years with a provision for municipal or third-party monitoring

**2. An accessory dwelling unit ordinance shall:**

- 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;



3. A cluster development ordinance, also known as an open space residential development ordinance or a conservation subdivision ordinance, shall:

- Allow for cluster developments as a matter of right in a majority of the land area that is zoned to permit residential use within the municipality;
- Provide a density bonus which allows for at least a 20 percent density bonus above the total number of units allowed in a conventional subdivision in exchange for protecting more than the minimum amount of open space as required by the cluster development ordinance; and
- Have a density formula or yield plan which allows for the applicant to determine the maximum number of homes that could be built under the cluster development ordinance at a design review phase conducted pursuant to RSA 676:4, II(b).

**4. A form-based code shall allow:**

- A diverse range of house types;
- A minimum of 5 dwelling units per building; and
- The adaptive reuse of existing buildings into residential buildings in downtown and village centers or other areas where there is an existing concentration of development as outlined in a municipality's master plan by a matter of right.

**5.** An inclusionary zoning ordinance shall require:

- That an economically viable percentage of the total number of housing units shall be workforce housing that is deed-restricted, but no less than 10 percent of the units for 10-plus unit developments; and
- The voluntary commitment of the property owner to provide deed-restricted workforce housing shall result in the property owner receiving a minimum 20 percent density bonus above the base density permitted in the zoning district or an allowance to build an extra story of housing.



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6. A manufactured housing ordinance shall, in accordance with RSA 674:32, I:

- Allow manufactured housing as defined in RSA 674:31 and RSA 205-A:1, I on individual lots in most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality, with parking and density requirements no more restrictive than for other residential uses allowed in such districts; or
- Provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for manufactured housing parks as defined in RSA 205-A:1, II in most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality, with parking and density requirements no more restrictive than for other residential uses allowed in such districts; and
- Provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for manufactured housing subdivisions in a majority of the land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality with parking and density requirements no more restrictive than for other residential uses allowed in such districts.



7. A missing middle housing ordinance shall allow as a matter of right in a majority of the land area that is zoned to permit residential uses that allow structures which contain as few as 2 housing units per structure and as many as 8 housing units per structure. Municipalities which enable higher density may allow for more than 8 units per structure as part of their missing middle housing ordinance;

8. A mixed-use zoning ordinance shall:

- Provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for a mix of residential, commercial, and retail uses in the same building or on the same lot as a matter of right;
- Allow multi-family housing containing 5 or more dwelling units as defined in RSA 674:58, II as a matter of right for new developments in the mixed-use zoning district; and
- Allow the conversion of space in existing buildings or structure to residential use as a matter of right in the mixed-use zoning district without the need for a change of use permit;

**9. A multi-family housing zoning ordinance shall:**

- Allow multi-family housing that is not age-restricted housing as a matter of right in either all zoning districts that encourage higher-density mixed-use development or all multi-family base or overlay zoning districts; and
- Not place a restriction on the number of housing units in a multi-family building or structure that meets the definition of multi-family housing.



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## 10. PUD:

A planned unit development ordinance shall allow PUD as a matter of right in either a planned unit development base or overlay zoning districts or other zoning district that encourages higher-density mixed-use development, missing middle housing enabling zones, cluster development enabling zones, multi-family enabling zones, or in most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality.



## 11. Lot Size:

A zoning ordinance shall require minimum lot sizes for residential uses in most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality that are:

- No greater than 43,560 square feet or one acre for lots with the best soil types and no slope if a majority of the lots in the zoning district do not have access to public water or sewer;
- No greater than 10,890 square feet or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre if a majority of the lots in the zoning district have access to public water and sewer; or
- No greater than 21,780 square feet or  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre if a majority of the lots in the zoning district have access to public water or sewer;

## 12. Dwelling Size:

A zoning ordinance shall in most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality:

- Allow as a matter of right dwelling units that are as small as 220 square feet as long as they meet all requirements of the state fire code, RSA 153 and the state building code, RSA 155-A; and
- Not place any limitations on the construction of tiny houses on foundations that are 400 square feet or less that meet the requirements of IRC Appendix Q as included in the state building code, RSA 155-A;

### **13. Parking:**

In most land areas in districts zoned to permit residential uses within the municipality, the zoning ordinance, site plan review regulation, subdivision regulation, or innovative land use control shall not require more than one off-street parking space for any housing unit; and



**14.** A transfer of development rights ordinance shall:

- Designate sending and receiving zones;
- Include a formula or mechanism to purchase additional density in the receiving zone, with resulting funds dedicated to an affordable housing fund identified in Bea 504.09(c)(5) or a conservation fund;
- Include a mechanism for the property owner to sell or donate the development rights to their property; and
- Include a legal mechanism to ensure that land in the sending zone is conserved.



- 15.** A municipality may substitute up to 2 other land use regulations or ordinances, including innovative land use controls adopted pursuant to RSA 674:21, which promote the development of workforce housing and other types of housing necessary for the economic development of the state, that are not included in the list of qualifying ordinances for an HC Designation application round for the purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section.

# Planning and Zoning Board Training-Scoring

## PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD TRAINING - 25 POINTS MAX

Training shall cover processes,  
procedures, regulations and statutes

Regularly distribute training material 5

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

# Sewer and Water Infrastructure - Scoring

## SEWER AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - 25 POINTS MAX

Eligible for completed, ongoing or  
planned projects support workforce  
housing dev.

Wastewater, Sewerage, Water,  
Community well and Interconnection of  
water or sewer system.

5 Bonus Max

### Infrastructure Improvements:

Completed within the preceding six  
years 10

Ongoing within preceding six years 10

Planned improvements with plans for  
completion within nine years 5

Planned improvements that lack funding 0

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



# Transportation Infrastructure - Scoring

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, SIDEWALKS AND WALKABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE - 10 POINTS MAX

Eligible for completed, ongoing or planned  
projects support workforce housing dev.

Bus service, sidewalk, complete street,  
share-use path, rail trail, recreation

4 Bonus Max

### Infrastructure Improvements:

Completed within the  
preceding six years 2

Ongoing investment in the  
development or construction  
within preceding six years 2

Planned improvements with  
plans for completion within  
nine years 2

Adoption of Complete Street  
Program 2

Implemented water and  
sewer improvements in  
preceding six years in  
downtown or town center 2



# 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

# RSA 79E

## Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive FAQs

*79-E is a temporary tax relief program to encourage the rehabilitation & use of under-utilized buildings in downtown areas*

### Substantial Rehabilitation

- Costs for rehab of a qualifying structure must be  $\geq$  \$75,000

OR

### Replacement of Existing Building

- Removal of a qualifying structure & new construction on the same lot where the costs are  $\geq$  \$75,000
  - ✓ The existing structure must not have significant historical, cultural or architectural value
  - ✓ The public benefit of replacement must exceed that of rehab.

&

### What structures qualify?

- Existing buildings in the Keene Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (NH RSA 79-E) District (see map on back)

### What Projects are Eligible?

#### Demonstration of Public Benefit\*

- Enhances downtown economic vitality
- Improves a culturally or historically important structure
- Promotes the preservation & reuse of the existing building stock
- Promotes efficient design, safety & greater sense of community consistent w/ the Comprehensive Master Plan
- Creates at least 1 new, full time job
- Directly integrates public art
- Achieves a nationally recognized green building standard
- Maintains or returns a residential building to owner occupancy
- Increases energy sustainability through reduced carbon emissions and/or an improved Home Energy Score

\*Must demonstrate at least 1 of the above benefits

### What is the process for seeking relief?

- Owner submits an application to City
- City staff review the application for completeness
- Once complete, the City Council holds a public hearing on the application w/in 60 days of completeness
- City Council votes whether or not to grant the relief & determine its duration w/in 45 days of the public hearing
- If approved, the Owner records a covenant to ensure the public benefit is preserved



### How long is the tax relief period?

- Up to 5 years for rehab or replacement as determined by City Council
- Tax relief is at a pre-rehabilitation assessed value and begins after work is completed
- Projects that provide 3+ public benefits may be considered for a longer relief period

### For more information:

Contact: Community Development Department  
4th Floor City Hall, 1 Washington St, Keene, NH  
p: (603) 352-6443  
<https://ci.keene.nh.us/community-development/>

# TITLE XII

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE

### CHAPTER 162-K

#### MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION DISTRICTS

##### Section 162-K:6

###### **162-K:6 District Establishment and Development Programs. –**

A municipality which has adopted this chapter and which intends to establish a development district shall, in addition to establishing the district, establish a development program under this section and a tax increment financing plan under RSA 162-K:9 and 10.

I. The development program shall contain a complete statement as to the public facilities to be constructed within the district, the open space to be created, the environmental controls to be applied, the proposed reuse of private property, and the proposed operations of the district after the capital improvements within the district have been completed.

II. The development program shall also provide for carrying out relocation of persons, families, business concerns, and others displaced by the project, pursuant to a relocation plan, including the method for the relocation of residents in decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations, and reasonable moving costs, determined to be feasible by the municipality.

III. In conformity with the development program, within the district, the municipality may:

- (a) Acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, alter, extend, operate, maintain or promote developments aimed at improving the physical facilities, quality of life and quality of transportation;
- (b) Acquire real property or easements through negotiation or through powers of eminent domain, except that property acquired through powers of eminent domain shall be put to public use, as defined in RSA 162-K:2, IX-a;
- (c) Adopt ordinances regulating the use of public parking structures and other facilities constructed within the development district and access to them and the conditions under which such access is allowed. Traffic regulations may include, but shall not be limited to, direction and speed of traffic, kinds of service activities that will be allowed in arcades, parking structures and plazas, and rates to be charged in the parking structures;
- (d) Require construction of buildings within the district so as to accommodate and support pedestrian systems which are part of the program for the development district. When the municipality requires for the public benefit the construction of columns, beams or girders with greater strength than required for normal building purposes, the municipality shall reimburse the owner for the added expense from development district funds;
- (e) Install lighting systems, street signs and street furniture, landscaping of street and public property, and snow removal systems compatible with the character of the district;
- (f) Acquire property for the district;
- (g) Lease air rights over public property and spend public funds for constructing the foundations and columns in the public buildings strong enough to support the buildings to be constructed on air rights;
- (h) Lease all or portions of basements, ground and second floors of the public buildings constructed in the district;
- (i) Negotiate the sale or lease of property for private development if the development is consistent with the development program for the district; and
- (j) If separately adopted by the city or town by the procedure described in RSA 162-K:1, acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, alter, extend, operate, maintain or promote residential developments aimed at increasing the available housing stock within the municipality.

**Source.** 1979, 175:2. 2006, 324:2, eff. Jan. 1, 2007. 2022, 272:79, eff. Aug. 23, 2022.



5 points: Acquisition or sale of real property by the Municipality for the development of workforce housing within the 6 years preceding the municipality's application for HC designation:

- Acquisition of land or buildings as enabled by statute, such as through RSA 41:14-a, RSA 80:76, or RSA 162-G, which is intended for the development of workforce housing
- Acquisition of State-owned real property declared as surplus by the State intended for development workforce housing;
- Sale of municipal land or building intended for development of workforce housing; or
- Publishing of RFP for the development of workforce housing on municipally owned land in the 6 years preceding the HC application.

# **TITLE III**

## **TOWNS, CITIES, VILLAGE DISTRICTS, AND UNINCORPORATED PLACES**

### **CHAPTER 31**

#### **POWERS AND DUTIES OF TOWNS**

#### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Section 31:95-h**

##### **31:95-h Revolving Funds. –**

I. A town may, by vote of the legislative body, establish a revolving fund. Each revolving fund shall be limited to one of the following purposes:

- (a) Facilitating, maintaining, or encouraging recycling as defined in RSA 149-M:4;
- (b) Providing ambulance services, or fire services, or both;
- (c) Providing public safety services by municipal employees or volunteers outside of the ordinary detail of such persons, including but not limited to public safety services in connection with special events, highway construction, and other construction projects, or for any other public safety purpose deemed appropriate by the municipality;
- (d) Creating affordable housing and facilitating transactions relative thereto;
- (e) Providing cable access for public, educational, or governmental use;
- (f) Financing of energy conservation and efficiency and clean energy improvements by participating property owners in an energy efficiency and clean energy district established pursuant to RSA 53-F; or
- (g) Facilitating transactions relative to municipal group net metering.

II. If a town establishes a revolving fund for any of the purposes listed in paragraph I, it may deposit into the fund all or any part of the revenues from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund, and any other revenues approved by the legislative body for deposit into the fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general surplus. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body, or other board or body designated by the local legislative body at the time the fund is created; provided, that no further approval of the legislative body, if different from the governing body, shall be required. Such funds may be expended only for the purposes for which the fund was created.

III. The legislative body may, at the time it establishes a revolving fund or at any time thereafter, place limitations on expenditures from the fund including, but not limited to, restrictions on the types of items or services that may be purchased from the fund, limitations on the amount of any single expenditure, and limitations on the total amount of expenditures to be made in a year. No amount may be expended from a revolving fund established hereunder for any item or service for which an appropriation has been specifically rejected by the legislative body during the same year.

IV. The provisions of this section shall not preclude the establishment of a revolving fund for any other purpose authorized by law.

**Source.** 2005, 79:1, eff. Aug. 6, 2005. 2008, 68:1, eff. July 20, 2008; 391:1, eff. Sept. 15, 2008. 2010, 215:3, eff. Aug. 27, 2010. 2013, 9:1, eff. July 6, 2013. 2017, 95:1, eff. Aug. 7, 2017. 2018, 30:1, eff. July 14, 2018; 58:1, eff. July 24, 2018.

# 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



Applications for Housing Champion Designation is open and will be accepted until May 31, 2025

All Applications will be reviewed and scored on a rolling basis.

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Housing Champion Designation Application and Award is required prior to any HC Grant Application.

HC Designations are effective for 3 years following the date of Designation.



nh housing champions




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Tools

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### Housing Champion Programs

Housing Champion Designation and Related Programs. Municipalities interested in earning Housing Champion Designation may apply until May 31, 2025.

 NH Economy  
https://www.nheconomy.com › InvestNH-Housing › 20...

### Housing Champion Programs

New Hampshire Housing Champions is a voluntary program adopted by the state legislature in 2023 to provide communities with another tool encouraging ...

 NH Business Review  
https://www.nhbr.com › housing-champions-are-commu...

### Housing champions are 'communities of the willing'

Jan 7, 2025 — With a Housing Champion (HC) designation, communities are eligible to apply for the Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant, with \$3.5 million ...

 UnionLeader.com  
https://www.unionleader.com › News › Home › Housing

### New Hampshire recognizes 18 communities as housing ...

Dec 22, 2024 — The 2024 Housing Champion awardees are: Boscawen, Concord, Derry, Dover, Enfield, Farmington, Hinsdale, Hooksett, Jaffrey, Keene, Lebanon, ...

<https://www.nheconomy.com/investnh-housing/programs/housing-champion-program>



The following municipalities are designated as New Hampshire Housing Champions:

- Boscawen
- Concord
- Derry
- Dover
- Enfield
- Farmington
- Hinsdale
- Hooksett
- Jaffrey
- Keene
- Lebanon
- Manchester
- Nashua
- Newport
- Portsmouth
- Rochester
- Salem
- Somersworth

18 of 235  
Communities

# HOUSING CHAMPION DESIGNATION AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Municipalities interested in earning Housing Champion Designation may apply until May 31, 2025. By earning this designation, communities become eligible for two additional sources of funds: infrastructure funding and per-unit production grants.

The New Hampshire legislature created and provided \$5 million in funding for the Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program ([NH RSA 12-O:71-76](#)), with the purpose of enabling municipalities to voluntarily engage in the Housing Champion Designation process and subsequently benefit from other funding assistance or opportunities made exclusively available to communities designated as Housing Champions. The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is administering the designation process and related programming.

The Housing Champion Designation is statutorily defined and requires BEA to engage in the formal rulemaking process before opening the program. The same is true for related grant programs for municipalities and eventual Housing Champion designees: the Housing Planning and Regulation Municipal Grant Program (NH RSA 12-O:72); the Housing Production Municipal Grant Program (NH RSA 12-O:73(I)); and the Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant and Loan Program (NH RSA 12-O:73(II)).

Municipalities interested in earning Housing Champion Designation may apply until May 31, 2025. By earning this designation, communities become eligible for two additional sources of funds: infrastructure funding and per-unit production grants.

## 2024 Housing Champions

To qualify for the designation, communities must provide documentation which demonstrates that zoning and land use regulations promote workforce housing; trains members of land use boards on appropriate procedures and laws that apply to board members; implement sewer and water infrastructure improvements; and implement public transportation and walkability infrastructure like sidewalks.

- [Housing Champion Designation and Grant Application](#)
- [Housing Champion Designation Program Guidance](#)
- [Housing Champion Designation Scoring Matrix](#)
- [Housing Champion Program Reporting and Renewal](#)
- [Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant Program Guidance](#)



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Basic Information

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## NH Business and Economic Affairs

Start here

- 1 Register an account.
- 2 Start your entry (save it in-progress).
- 3 Submit your entry.

For any questions, please contact [brittany.littlefield@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:brittany.littlefield@livefree.nh.gov)





## 2025 RANKING CRITERIA FOR WASTEWATER AND/OR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PRE-APPLICATIONS



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides financial assistance for planning, design, and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. Annual capitalization grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), combined with state match and loan repayment funds, are used to provide funding for a variety of activities to eligible entities throughout the state.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed a ranking system to prioritize projects in accordance with federal requirements and water quality goals. The criteria used to evaluate and rank eligible project pre-applications are summarized in the table below, and each of the ranking criteria categories is detailed in the narrative on the following pages.

### RANKING CRITERIA - WASTEWATER PROJECTS (Maximum 100 points)

#### Category 1: PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH (30 points maximum)

Project Addresses:	Points
a) Federal or state administrative order (AO) or consent decree (CD).	20
b) WWTF upgrade to remove nutrients or metals prior to issuance of AO, CD or new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or Groundwater Discharge (GWD) Permit.	20
c) Mitigation of chronic NPDES or GWD compliance issues.	10

Points = sum of 1 (a) to 1 (c); 30 max

#### Category 2: GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (GPR) (20 points maximum)

Project Addresses:	Points
a) Water Efficiency.	Based on % of project cost
b) Energy Efficiency.	
c) Renewable Energy.	
d) Green Infrastructure.	
e) Environmentally Innovative.	

Points = % project cost for items 2 (a) to 2 (e) x 20; 20 max

#### Category 3: AGING INFRASTRUCTURE (30 points maximum)

Project Addresses:	Points
a) Replacement or upgrade of aging Infrastructure.	10
b) Implementation of project identified through criticality analysis in asset management program.	20
c) Community is a designated "Housing Champion" community.	10

Points = sum of 3 (a) to 3 (c); 30 max

#### Category 4 – READINESS (20 point maximum)

Project Status:	Points
a) Project as described has received the authority to borrow the full amount.	10 (20 for Planning)

# Housing Champion Funding

The BEA work session in Senate Finance has been scheduled for next Wednesday, May 21st at 11 AM. This would be the opportunity for the \$100k/FY of RPC funding to be restored in the FY26-FY27 state budget and for the \$5 million in Housing Champion funding (SB279) to be included in the budget.

**The Senate Finance MUST hear from you.**

“E-mails don’t need to be more than a few lines. A significant number of e-mails to the Senate Finance Committee are likely to have more effect than even the best crafted joint letter from NHPA, NHMA, NH Housing, and Housing Action NH, which is also in the works, and will be delivered to the Senate Finance Committee.”

"James.Gray@gc.nh.gov"

"Daniel.Innis@gc.nh.gov"

"Regina.Birdsell@gc.nh.gov"

"Howard.Pearl@gc.nh.gov"

"Sharon.Carson@gc.nh.gov"

"Timothy.Lang@gc.nh.gov"

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"Cindy.Rosenwald@gc.nh.gov"

"Debra.Martone@gc.nh.gov"

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

Other words included: WHEN?, WHERE?, WHAT?, HOW?, WHO?, Why?, What?