



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Deputy City Manager – Development  
DATE: October 29, 2024  
SUBJECT: Housing Champion Program

### **Recommendation:**

Accept this report and authorize the City Manager to apply for the State of New Hampshire Housing Champion Program.

### **Background:**

The New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs has announced the creation of the Housing Champion Program.

Municipalities are selected through a competitive application process to participate in this program. There are no direct funds associated with the Housing Champion Designation Program, however upon receipt of the Housing Champion Designation, municipalities are eligible to apply for grant funding for infrastructure investment supporting housing and a per-unit housing production program modeled after the Municipal Per Unit (MPU) program in the federally funded InvestNH program. The State has appropriated a combined total of \$5,000,000 to these grant programs in State Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Specifically:

- \$1,500,000 for Housing Production Municipal (HPM) Grant
- \$3,500,000 for Housing Infrastructure Municipal (HIM) Grant

It is presently unclear what the maximum grant award would be for these opportunities.

For more information about this program, please visit: <https://www.nheconomy.com/investnh-housing/programs/housing-champion-program>

### **Discussion:**

As City Council will recall from the presentation it received at its October 2024 meeting, more than 2,300 housing units are currently in production in Concord. The City also has a disproportionate share of income restricted (affordable housing) in the Central New Hampshire Region. Additionally, staff notes that the City has a variety of tools already at its disposal which it has regularly used to support housing focused public-private partnerships including, but not limited to, the sale of City owned real estate, the RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Program, the Revolving Loan Fund Program, and Community Development Block Grants.

While the City is already a leader for housing within the State, the Housing Champion Program would give the City access to additional tool in the form of State grants which could be used to support housing projects when appropriate.

Applications are due no later than November 15, 2024. If accepted, the Housing Champion designation would be valid for three years. Based upon a preliminary review of the State's application criteria, City Administration believes the City's application would be competitive.