

MEETING OF THE HOUSING RESOURCES COMMISSION
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Members of the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission (“HRC”) met on September 17, 2024 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room 2A, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908, in Public Session, which meeting was scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., pursuant to the public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, as required by applicable Rhode Island law.

The following members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Michelle Brophy, Maria Cimini, Brenda Clement, Jennifer Hawkins, Deborah Imondi, Melina Lodge, Paula McFarland, Mike Simoli, Carol Ventura, and Matthew Santacroce.

Also present were: Hannah Moore, Executive Director; Kayla Rosen, Chief of Staff, Department of Housing; Attorney Michael P. Robinson, counsel to the HRC; Nicholas Freeman; and various other members of the public.

Recognizing a quorum, Vice-Chairwoman Lodge called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Commissioner Jordan Mickman arrived at 9:09 a.m. Dan Connors, Interim Secretary of Housing, arrived at 9:10 a.m. Commissioner Kimberly Merolla-Brito arrived at 9:16 a.m., Commissioner Kim Simmons arrived at 9:30 a.m., Ramon Feliz arrived at 9:33 a.m., and Commissioner Kayla Weststeyn arrived at 10:18 a.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.**

Upon motion made by Ms. Imondi and seconded by Ms. Clement, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To approve the draft meeting minutes for the HRC meeting held on August 20, 2024, as presented to the HRC.

2. **PRESENTATION FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

Commissioner Simoli provided the HRC with a presentation regarding the Rhode Island Department of Health’s housing-related activities, including the work of the Center for Healthy Homes and the Environment. He addressed the Department’s duties and responsibilities in coordinating lead hazard mitigation, providing technical assistance, planning and education for lead hazard reduction, increasing the number of rental properties with lead certifications, and lead safety enforcement. He also addressed the training and education of lead paint hazard professionals, as well as compliance and complaint inspections on active work sites. Ms. Brophy asked about the rental registry and functionality with lead safe compliance. Ms. Clement asked about efforts to secure lead inspectors. Ms. Cimini asked about weatherization programs. Ms. Hawkins asked about inter-agency data sharing regarding the rental registry beyond the

Department of Health. Ms. Ventura noted that the lack of inspectors is a problem and proposed a sub-group of the HRC to discuss ways to increase the number of lead inspectors.

3. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING UPDATE.

Vice-chair Lodge introduced Interim Housing Secretary Dan Connors. Interim Housing Secretary Connors introduced Chief of Staff Kayla Rosen, who updated the HRC with respect to the Housing Governance Report, which is due December 31, 2024. Chief of Staff Rosen presented the HRC with the presentation attached hereto as Exhibit B. Ms. Rosen provided an overview of the process and approach to the report and indicated that the organizational survey has been released and sent to all state agencies and quasi-public entities, as well as 40+ boards and commissions. She also noted that there is a separate stakeholder governance survey, and that link is available to be shared with all stakeholders. She also noted that five (5) stakeholder meetings have been conducted to date, and that the webpage is up and running with information on the project.

Executive Director Moore then provided an update on the State Housing Plan. See attached Exhibit B. She introduced Patrick Duffy, who updated the HRC with regard to “Housing 2030”, the current name of the plan under development. He noted that a housing survey has been conducted and a webpage launched, and that meetings with all 39 cities and towns have taken place. He indicated that an advisory group is being convened, and public workshops scheduled. Mr. Duffy previewed content that the advisory group will be discussing regarding Housing 2030. Mr. Mickman asked who is guiding fair housing across the plan. Mr. Santacroce raised collaboration around e-permitting data and fire and building requirements. Commissioners discussed draft priorities, the current timeline, and ways to contribute to development of the plan.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE HRC’S RESPONSE TO THE HOUSING ORGANIZATIONAL SURVEY

Executive Director Moore provided the HRC with the Survey attached hereto as Exhibit C. She indicated that a breakout session has been scheduled to discuss the response, and that feedback is welcomed. She also noted that the HRC’s response will be finalized at the October HRC meeting. She indicated that the HRC’s broad statutory charge requires a thoughtful response to the survey. She asked Commissioners to review the survey questions, and to be prepared to discuss them at the breakout session.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT.

Executive Director Moore indicated that she is excited about Commissioner presentations, and the opportunity for cross-enhancement of HRC member expertise. She also noted that budget discussions are ongoing.

6. UPDATES FROM RHODE ISLAND HOUSING ON THE BUILDING HOMES RHODE ISLAND AND ACQUISITION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS

James Comer from Rhode Island Housing provided the HRC with the update on the Building Homes Rhode Island (BHRI) program attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. Ms. Hawkins suggested that consideration be given to increasing the per-unit allocation for BHRI development.

7. PRESENTATION ON OLMSTEAD PLANNING

Allegra Scharff, Chief of Healthcare Equity & Olmstead Planning Lead with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), presented the HRC with the Olmstead Planning and Implementation presentation attached hereto as **Exhibit E**. She discussed the background of the United States Supreme Court ruling, and its requirement for development of a compliant plan. She noted the EOHHS's engagement with community partners, and she summarized efforts in progress. She also addressed the Governor's Executive Order 24-11, which requires the development of an initial draft of an Olmstead Plan by February 2025, and formation of an advisory group. She also addressed community engagement efforts, next steps for Olmstead planning, and connections between the development of an Olmstead plan and housing issues. Commissioners discussed ways to enhance and amplify the work of EOHHS on the development of the Olmstead Plan.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Vice-chair Lodge entertained public comment; no member of the public sought to address the HRC.

Ms. Rosen left the meeting at 9:41 a.m. Mr. Simoli left the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Mr. Connors left the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and returned at 10:24 a.m. Ms. Ventura left the meeting at 10:42 a.m. Mr. Simoli left the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

No further business coming before the HRC, on a motion duly made by Ms. Ventura and seconded by Ms. Brophy, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adjourn the August 20, 2024 HRC meeting.

Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.



Melina Lodge, HRC Vice-chair

MEETING NOTICE
HOUSING RESOURCES COMMISSION

A meeting of the Housing Resources Commission (“HRC”) will be held at the **Department of Administration, Conference Room 2A, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908** on **September 17, 2024** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** for the following purposes:

1. To consider the approval of draft meeting minutes for the August 20, 2024 Housing Resources Commission meeting.
2. To receive an HRC commissioner connections presentation from the Rhode Island Department of Health.
3. To receive updates from the Department of Housing.
4. To discuss the HRC’s response to the Housing Organizational Survey for RI State Departments, Quasi-Public Agencies, Boards, and Commissions.
5. To receive a report from the Executive Director.
6. To receive updates from Rhode Island Housing on the Building Homes Rhode Island and Acquisition and Revitalization programs.
7. To receive a presentation from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services on Olmstead Planning.
8. To receive public comment.

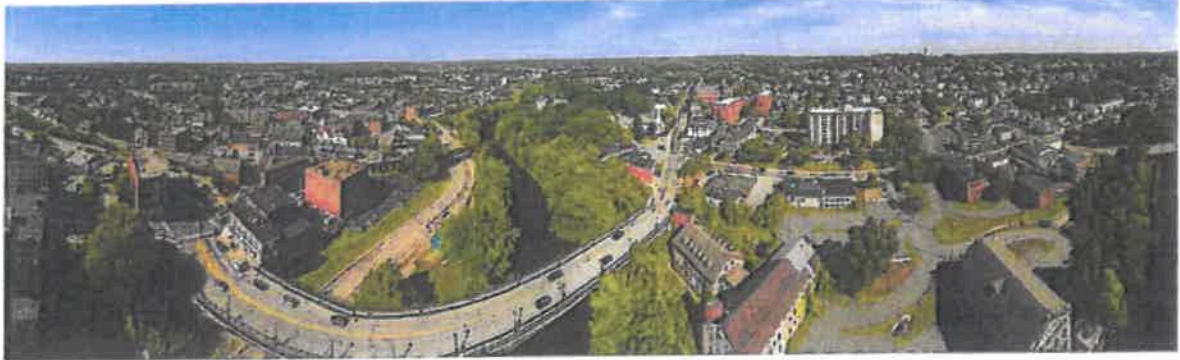
This notice shall be posted at the Office of the Housing Resources Commission, at the State Library, and by electronic filing with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Savage Law Partners, LLP,

Counsel to the HRC

Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting must notify the HRC at 401-278-9100, forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Dated: September 12, 2024



HRC Meeting

September 17, 2024

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State Housing Plan Update

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General Updates

- *Housing 2030*
- Met with all 39 municipalities
- Webpage launched for the state housing plan
 - Visit housing.ri.gov -> Data & Reports -> State Housing Plan
- Housing survey
 - 1,256 responses to date
 - HEZs are supporting direct outreach to low-income households for survey responses
 - Data to inform *Housing 2030* and the HUD Consolidated Plan (with RIHousing)
- Advisory group being convened (first meeting this Thursday)
 - Public meetings
- Scheduling public workshops to receive feedback on the draft plan (likely in early January)
 - More details to come, including request to assist in facilitation!

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What is *Housing 2030*?

- *Housing 2030* is the name for the currently underdevelopment state housing plan
- Aim is that this process will bring Rhode Islanders together to set **concrete and measurable** housing-related goals and align on strategies for making meaningful progress towards achieving these goals.
- *Housing 2030* is grounded in the existing and projected housing needs of Rhode Islanders and Rhode Island communities.
- *Housing 2030* aims to be an actionable plan that is not intended to sit on a shelf. It will do this by:
 - Creating and informing tools for Rhode Island communities to use
 - Serving as a roadmap for policy and budget proposals for FY2026 and beyond
 - Helping guide the State's use of federal funds,
 - Becoming adopted as the State's Guide Plan Element – which will inform municipal planning efforts for years to come

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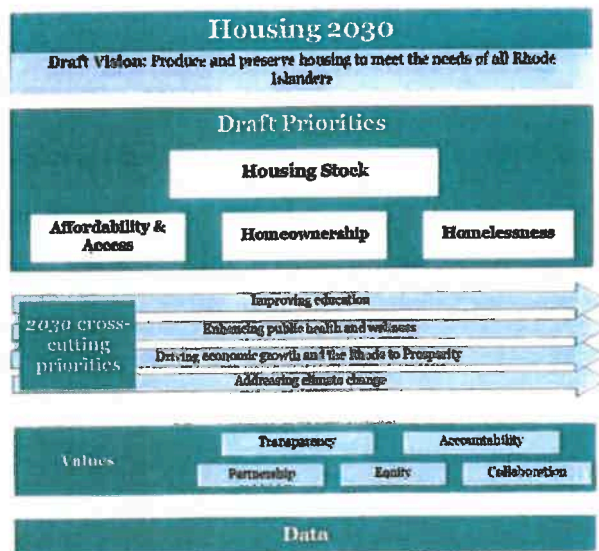
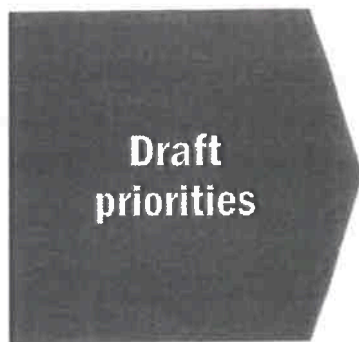
Rhode Island has a choice.

What kind of future does Rhode Island envision for itself?

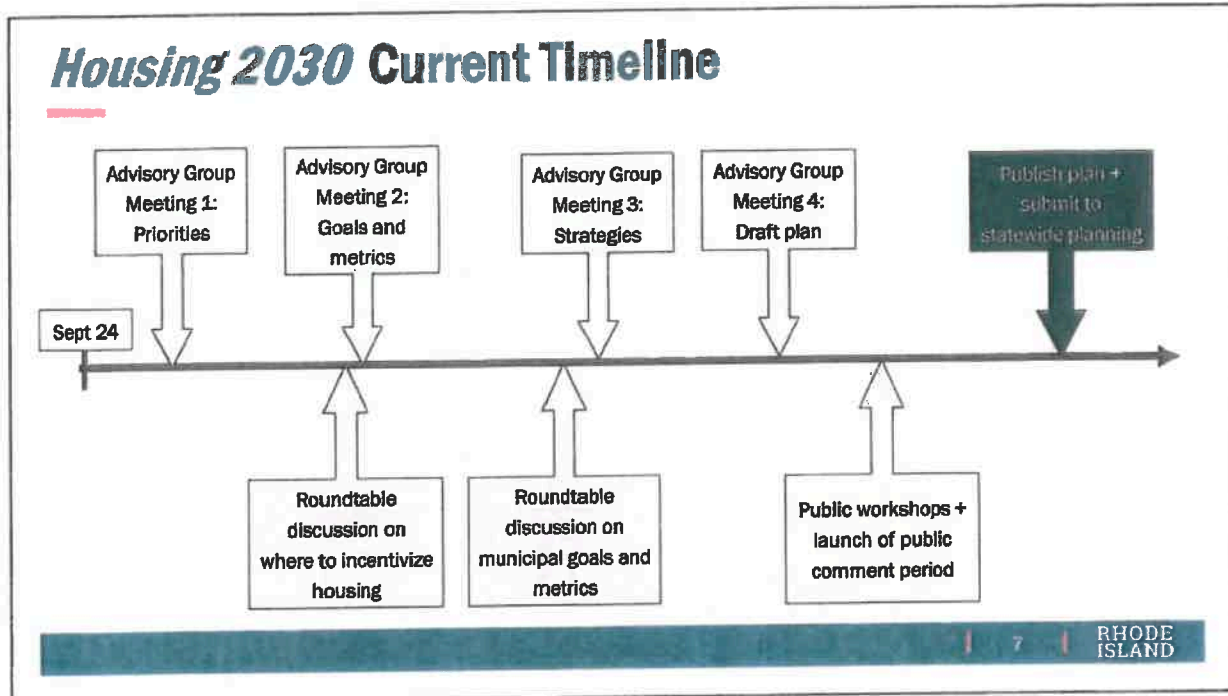
- Faced with these challenges and tradeoffs, Rhode Island must face some key questions as it creates a vision for itself.
 - Do we want to be a place where our children and grandchildren can afford to live both now and in the future?
 - Do we want to be able to retain our talented workforce?
 - Do we want to price even more Rhode Islanders out of the state?
 - Do we want to be a welcoming, diverse state?

Draft vision: Produce and preserve housing to meet the needs of all Rhode Islanders

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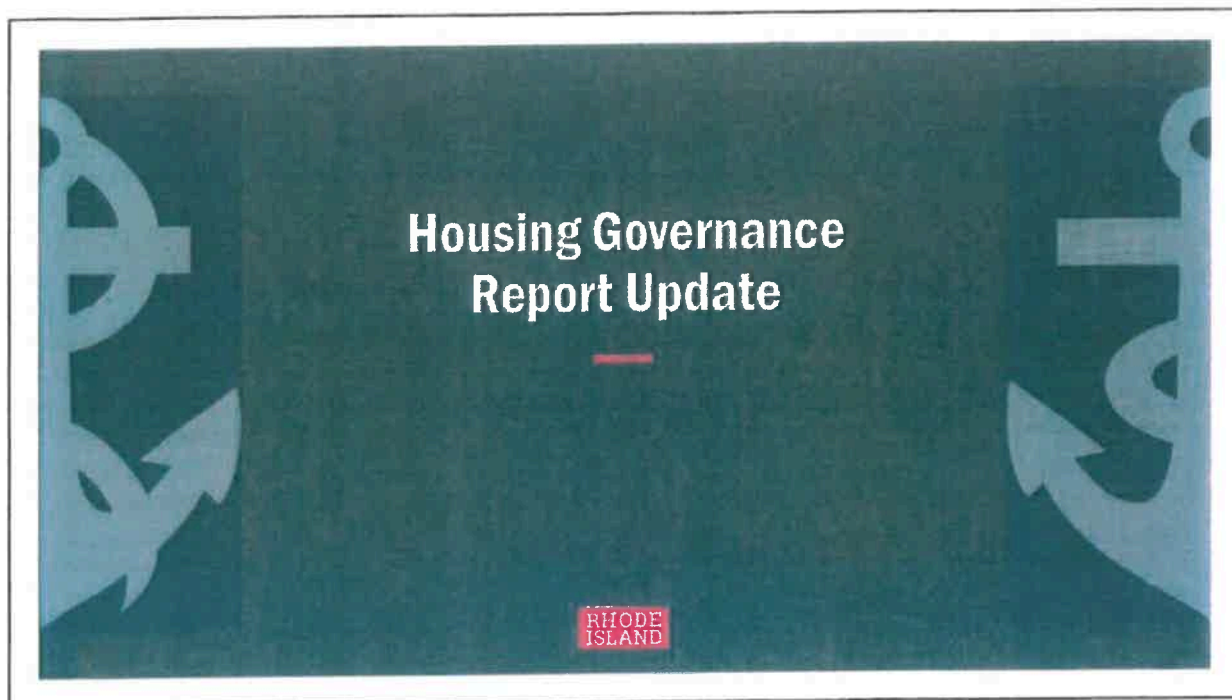
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How to contribute to Housing 2030's development?

-  Share the housing survey
-  Attend public workshops (dates and locations will be shared on Department's website and at future HRC meetings)
-  Reach out directly to the Department. Email Patrick Duffy to share feedback or schedule time to meet.
Patrick.s.duffy@housing.ri.gov

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Updated Housing Organizational Plan due 12/31/24

Statutory Language

“On or before December 31, 2024 develop a housing organizational plan to be provided to the general assembly that includes a review, analysis, and assessment of functions related to housing of all state departments, quasi-public agencies, boards, and commissions.

Provided, further, the secretary, with the input from each department, agency, board, and commission, shall include in the plan comprehensive options, including the advantages and disadvantages of each option and recommendations relating to the functions and structure of the department of housing, including suggested statutory revisions.”

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Process Overview

Summary of Report Process

	August/September	October	November	December
Process Step	Landscape analysis	Opportunity and Criteria Definition	Develop and Review Governance Options	Finalize and Recommend
Key Question	What is the current status of housing-related functions?	What are the challenges/opportunities that performance can address? What are the criteria of success?	How effectively do different governance options address those challenges/opportunities?	What are the final recommendations?
Process Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey for departments, quasi-publics, commissions, and boards State Housing Planning Resident survey Stakeholder interviews Review of recent reports 	Emerging findings from		Discussions with

Current Phase | 11 | RHODE ISLAND

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Progress Updates

- **Organizational Survey released!**
 - Sent to all state agencies & quasi-publics
 - Sent to 40+ boards and commissions
- **Stakeholder survey link is live! - closes September 25**
 - Please share with your networks!
- **Meetings with Stakeholders**
 - 5 stakeholder meetings conducted to date
- **Webpage is up with information about this project:** <https://housing.ri.gov/data-reports/housing-governance-report-2024>

If you have any questions or feedback, please let me know! Email: Kayla.Rosen@housing.ri.gov

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Housing Organizational Survey: **For RI State Departments, Quasi-Public Agencies, Boards, and Commissions**

Thank you for taking the time complete this survey and participating in this important initiative. **We are asking for responses by September 25, 2024.** We understand that for Commissions or Boards that do not meet frequently this deadline may not be possible. Please contact kayla.rosen@housing.ri.gov to discuss an updated timeline, to discuss the process for completing this survey, or any questions/concerns.

What is the purpose of this survey? The FY25 Enacted Budget a statutory requirement for the Department of Housing to develop a “housing organizational plan that includes a review, analysis, and assessment of functions related to housing of all state departments, quasi-public agencies, boards, and commissions.” In addition, the plan will include comprehensive options for governance with input from each department, agency, board, and commission. The purpose of this survey is to learn about your organization/entity’s housing-related work and needs to inform the development of this report. For more information on this initiative, please see the website [here](#).

How will this information be used? The information provided will inform the first phase of the report – a landscape analysis – to understand how current housing/homelessness functions are organized and governed. In addition, the information will be used to inform the third phase of the analysis, which will consider various governance options and discuss benefits and considerations. Organizations and stakeholders will have several opportunities to review the information and provide input throughout the process. **Please note: The information collected in this survey will be made public as part of an appendix in the final report.**

Who should fill out the survey? This survey is specifically for state departments, quasi-public agencies, boards, and commissions. **If your agency does not have housing-related functions/activities, please email kayla.rosen@housing.ri.gov to note that you will not be filling out the survey.** Stakeholders are encouraged to fill out the stakeholder survey here: <https://forms.fillout.com/t/m9Dq3zcRd2us>. Please feel free to share the stakeholder link!

Thank you! Please reach out to Kayla.Rosen@housing.ri.gov with any questions.

Part 1: Organization Name & Point of Contact

State Department, Quasi-public Agency, Board, or Commission ("Organization")
Name: *

Name of Point of Contact for Organization: *

Email for Point of Contact *



Phone number for Point of Contact *



Part 2: Organizational Profile – Current Role & Responsibility in Housing/Homelessness

Please note that responses in this section of the survey will be used to develop an organizational profile for each entity. These will be shared back for review and edits before a final draft is released.

What are your organization's functions (strategy, programs, regulation, and data) in relation to housing and/or homelessness policy areas?

The policy areas include:

1. **Housing Development:** Housing development relates to activities that help to build, redevelop, and produce new housing. Broadly defined, this policy area includes but is not limited to, land use; construction; financing; permitting; infrastructure; predevelopment; land assembly and disposition; etc.
2. **Homeownership:** Homeownership relates to activities such as financing homeownership or supporting individuals or families in becoming homeowners. Examples include financing mortgages; marketing and brokering real estate; down payment assistance; financial literacy; homeowner education; assessing homeownership data; etc.
3. **Housing affordability and access:** Housing affordability and access relates to activities that focus on ensuring housing is affordable for households and that households have the supports they need to access and maintain stable housing. This may include activities related to housing vouchers; housing navigation support; state or federal programs to maintain housing (e.g., LIHEAP); landlord-tenant relationships; eviction prevention; monitoring deed restrictions; financing related to affordability requirements; tracking data on housing affordability; etc.
4. **Specialized housing:** Specialized housing relates to housing that is for specific populations or purposes, such as Assisted Living facilities, Transitional Housing, Recovery Housing, etc.
5. **Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock:** Preservation relates to ensuring existing housing remains in good repair and available for habitation. For example, managing home repair programs; healthy housing (e.g., lead, mold, asbestos); building inspections; enforcement of code requirements; etc.
6. **Climate and energy:** This area includes areas such as climate resilience, climate adaptation, renewable energy, energy infrastructure, energy efficiency/use related to housing.
7. **Homelessness:** Homelessness includes activities related to addressing homelessness, including prevention, intervention, and planning activities.

For each policy area that your organization has a role in, you will be asked a series of questions.

Which policy areas does your organization have a role in? Please select all that apply.

Housing development x Homeownership x Specialized Housing x
Housing affordability and access x Climate and energy x
Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock x
Homelessness x

Policy Area 1: Housing Development:

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Housing Development: Strategy, planning, and policy

Housing Development: Programs and financing

Housing Development: Regulation and enforcement

Housing Development: Data

Policy Area 2: Homeownership

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Homeownership: Strategy, planning, and policy

Homeownership: Programs and financing

Homeownership: Regulation and enforcement

Homeownership: Data

Policy Area 3: Housing affordability and access:

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Housing affordability and access: Strategy, planning, and policy

Housing affordability and access: Programs and financing

Housing affordability and access: Regulation and enforcement

Housing affordability and access: Data

Policy Area 4: Specialized housing

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Specialized housing: Strategy, planning, and policy

Specialized housing: Programs and financing

Specialized housing: Regulation and enforcement

Specialized housing: Data

Policy Area 5: Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock: Strategy, planning, and policy

Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock: Programs and financing

Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock: Regulation and enforcement

Preservation, health, and safety of existing housing stock: Data

Policy Area 6: Climate and Energy

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Climate and Energy: Strategy, planning, and policy

Climate and Energy: Programs and financing

Climate and Energy: Regulation and enforcement

Climate and Energy: Data

Policy Area 7: Homelessness

What specifically does your organization do in relation to this policy area?

Homelessness: Strategy, policy, and planning

Homelessness: Programs and financing

Homelessness: Regulation and enforcement

Homelessness: Data

Please use the space below to add any additional information or details that may not have been captured in the previous questions:

//

What resources (funding, land, staff hours, etc) does your organization have to conduct the housing and homelessness related functions described above in State Fiscal Year 2025? Please provide as much detail as possible.

//

What are the state or federal statutes or regulations your organization is charged with, related to housing and homelessness? Please include citations or links below:

//

Who does your organization interact with on a regular basis as part of the functions described above? Please select all that apply.

Are there priority populations whose housing you are focused on? Please select all that apply or add to the list below (Please note that these are not meant to be mutually exclusive categories):

What data and/or performance metrics do you track related to housing / homelessness? If possible, please include links to information.

//

Part 3: Discussion of Current Roles/Responsibilities

Please use this section to share feedback and perspectives about current governance of housing and homelessness functions.

What functions of your organization related to housing/homelessness are most aligned with your core capacity?

//

Are there current unmet needs/resource gaps in achieving your organization's mission related to housing/homelessness?

//

Are there areas of your work that are duplicative with other entities? If so, which functions and with which entities?

//

What opportunities do you see to increase efficiency in delivery of housing and homelessness related functions?

//

Across the system, what are the current gaps? What functions need to be accomplished that are not currently being accomplished?

//

Please use the space below to add any additional thoughts or considerations related to housing governance:

//



MEMO

To: Housing Resources Commission
From: James Comer
Date: September 4, 2024
Subject: Building Homes Rhode Island

Rhode Island voters have approved four housing bonds totaling \$190 million since 2006, with the most recent \$65 million housing bond approved in 2021. This represents \$165 million in Building Homes Rhode Island (BHRI) funds which support the development and preservation of affordable housing units throughout the state. \$25 million in funding (from the 2016 and 2021 bonds) has been designated to fund the Acquisition and Revitalization Program (ARP) which is a blight remediation initiative that in addition to housing, can be used to fund community and commercial space.

BHRI funds are overseen by the Housing Resources Commission which has entered into a contractual relationship with RIH to administer the funds. RIHousing prepares and publishes solicitations for applications for BHRI, evaluates and underwrites the projects, and administers the funds, dispersing through the construction process and reviewing the work performed. The key relationship as outlined by the MOU governing RIH services is the evaluation and recommendations made to the Funding Committee of HRC and ultimately through them to the Commission as a whole. These recommendations are made consistent with scoring guidelines published with the RFP for applications, and emphasize the projects' impact, financial feasibility and readiness to proceed.

These bond funds have been a critical tool to address the shortage of affordable housing in our state, and until the recent Housing Production Fund and commitment of State Fiscal Recovery Funds by the General Assembly and Governor, have been the only state dollars available to meet this great need. The funds in both BHRI and ARP have allowed communities throughout the state to make progress toward their affordable housing goals and provided many community and commercial spaces which benefit the residents of those communities, particularly those living in affordable housing. Over the course of the four bond issues, over 4,300 housing units have been created:

- **2006 Bond - "BHRI I"- \$50,000,000**
 - 1505 units created in total in 28 communities
 - 1206 BHRI-funded units created
 - 1059 affordable rental units created
 - 147 affordable homeownership units created



- **2012 Bond - "BHRI II" - \$25,000,000**
 - 1164 units created in total throughout 14 communities
 - 768 BHRI-funded units
 - 746 affordable rental units
 - 22 affordable homeownership units

- **2016 Bond - "BHRI III" \$50,000,000 (\$40,000,000 BHRI/\$10,000,000 ARP)**
 - **BHRI III:**
 - \$40 million BHRI funds awarded - \$38.4 million disbursed*
 - 33 projects are complete and four are under construction.
 - 1109 total-assisted units - 1069 rental units and 40 homeownership units created/preserved in 19 communities
 - **ARP:**
 - \$10 million ARP funds awarded - \$8.9 million disbursed*
 - 18 projects are complete and one is under construction
 - 141 total-assisted units -132 rental units and 9 homeownership units created/preserved
 - 10 public facility or commercial units created
 - 19 projects assisted in 5 communities

- **2021 Bond - "BHRI IV"- \$65,000,000 (\$50,000,000 BHRI/\$15,000,000 ARP)**
 - **BHRI IV:**
 - \$50,000,000 BHRI funds awarded - \$22.5 million disbursed*
 - 8 projects are complete, 15 are under construction, 7 were awarded in 2024 with anticipated closings in 2024
 - 853 total assisted units in 15 communities created/preserve
 - 836 rental, 17 homeownership created/preserved
 - **ARP II**
 - \$15 million ARP funds awarded - \$3.9 million disbursed*
 - 3 projects are complete, one is under construction, five received awards in May 2024
 - 226 rental units, 2 public facilities and 6 commercial units will be created
 - 10 projects assisted in 3 communities

**Disbursements through 7/31/24*



Olmstead Planning and Implementation

Housing Resource Commission
9/17/2024


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Reminders About Olmstead

Olmstead is a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. It found that segregation of people with disabilities is discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.
- Our first priority is to comply with Olmstead by developing a plan with the community that works “for moving people out of more restrictive settings into the community.”
- In Rhode Island, our goal is to ensure the initial plan, as well as future editions, prevents unnecessary institutionalization in the first place.



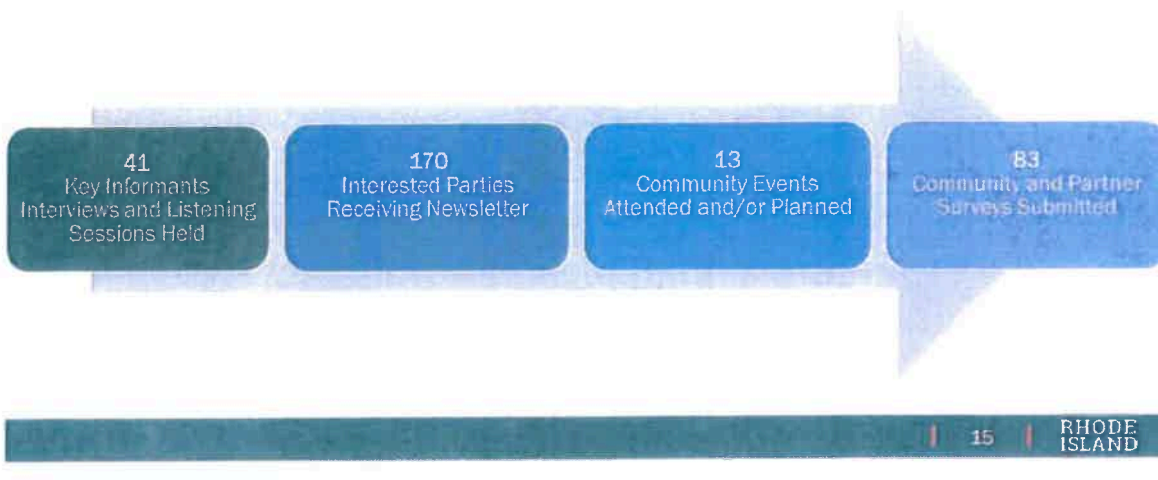
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw-nhhDoOG8&feature=youtu.be>

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Thank You to Our Partners

First and foremost, thank you to our partners who have continued to champion Olmstead and provide feedback to inform Rhode Island's priorities!



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Brief Summary of Olmstead Efforts in Progress

While we have made strides towards implementing the initiatives below (and others) to address Olmstead, adopting an Olmstead Plan will guide additional efforts to ensuring people with disabilities can live in inclusive communities.

Institutional level care is necessary for some individuals, but for most individuals with disabilities, it is not. Rhode Island is working to reduce unnecessary institutionalization by:

- Building community-based mental health services through Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) and opening the Butler Short-Stay Unit to improve access to early initiation of behavioral health treatment.
- Reducing long stays at acute care hospitals or Skilled Nursing Facilities by investing in medical respite and mobile wound care.
- Investing in children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (i.e., mobile crisis) to help children and youth experiencing behavioral health crises to get care in the community instead of in hospitals.
- Strengthening community-level infrastructure to increase affordable housing options, design accessible streets, and enhance real-time social service feedback loops through our Health Equity Zones—including a recent Community Integration Specialist pilot.
- Implementing Medicaid rate increases as well as the Developmental Disabilities Consent Decree based on community need.

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Executive Order 24-11 on Olmstead in Rhode Island

The Governor of Rhode Island issued [Executive Order 24-11](#) (on August 14, 2024) that required the development of an Initial draft of an Olmstead Plan by February 2025 and the formation of the Olmstead Advisory Group.

Whole-of-Government Planning

The Executive Order authorizes EOHHS to work across government agencies, industry sectors, and the community to:

- Produce a preliminary draft of a plan that prioritizes accessible service delivery and necessary supports to individuals with disabilities in the least restrictive settings.
- Create processes and procedures to revise and update Rhode Island's Olmstead Plan every five years.
- Review plan performance, investment outcomes, strengths of approaches and opportunities on an annual basis and report findings within 90 days of each new State Fiscal Year.

Olmstead Advisory Group

The EOHHS Olmstead Advisory Group will convene regularly to review recommendations and provide feedback:

- Initial convening will focus on level setting for each priority setting type, discussing institutionalization drivers, quality of institutions, and deinstitutionalization challenges.
- Several planning workgroups will be established and as workgroup recommendations emerge, these will be reviewed for feedback and further prioritization.
- Members will provide their recommendations on the draft plan and processes for monitoring implementation.

Olmstead Advisory Group Details

The Olmstead Advisory Group will be comprised of approximately 40-45 members representing key findings and community priorities identified to date and will incorporate existing public forums focusing on Olmstead populations.



- Will be held as accessible public meetings with accommodations.
- Convening at least monthly into Feb. 2025 and iteratively thereafter.
- Membership revisited annually or as needed to reflect changing priorities and emerging issues.
- Individuals with lived experience will be added based on applications received for community-at-large spots. [Apply Here!](#)

Olmstead Community Engagement

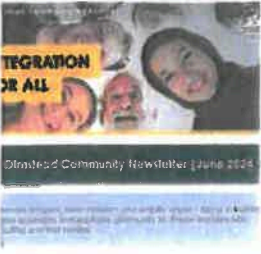
Significant achievements in community engagement have occurred, including launching a public website, translating and promoting the community survey, issuing a monthly newsletter, and planning for additional listening sessions.



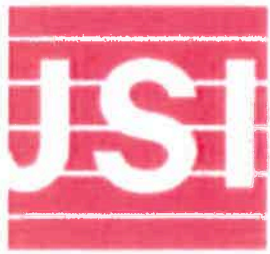
- Who does Olmstead serve?
- Are Rhode Islanders with disabilities living like the rest of us?
- What programs and services are currently in place?
- What can we do to reduce institutionalization?
- Learn about our planning process

[RI Olmstead Planning Webpages](#)






Integration for All Newsletter



Partner-Hosted Listening Sessions


English


Spanish


Portuguese

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Next Steps for Olmstead Planning

Save the date for our Fall Olmstead Planning and Engagement Form to be held on September 27, 2024 in Cranston, RI.

Tentative Working Agenda:

- Opening Remarks
- Keynote Speaker(s)
- Rhode Island Olmstead Update
- Lunch and Partnership Opportunity Sign-Up
- Olmstead Community Priorities Review Exercise
- Setting-Specific Workgroup Planning Kickoff Tables
- Transition to First Olmstead Advisory Group Meeting



OLMSTEAD PLANNING & ENGAGEMENT FORUM
27 SEPTEMBER 2024 | 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Cranston Office of Health and Human Services, 1000 Park Plaza Building | Cranston, RI 02909

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Olmstead Planning Workgroups

Planning workgroups will be established by setting type (e.g., correctional facilities, long-term care facilities, hospital, psychiatric facilities, and group homes) and likely focus on recommendations for four cross-cutting areas:



- **Foster Inclusion and Integration in community living** by creating accessible environments, promoting understanding and acceptance, and ensuring equitable opportunities to thrive.
- **Improve institutional level care** by understanding what's working well and what needs to change to assure individuals can quickly and effectively stabilize and transition out of more restrictive settings.
- **Support sustainable deinstitutionalization** by enhancing community capacity to support individuals leaving institutions and ensure that individuals do not cycle back into them.
- **Prevent unnecessary restrictions** by identifying what drives institutionalization before it happens and working to correct it including the investment in home and community-based services, community conditions, and quality levels of care.

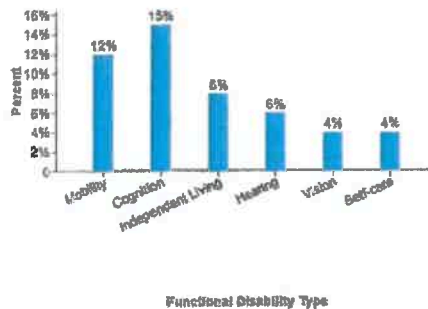
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Olmstead and Housing

Ensuring access to affordable, accessible housing is a key component of a successful Olmstead Plan

- 1 in 4 Rhode Island adults has a disability
- 22 % of Rhode Island Children have one or more special healthcare need
- 37.5% of people with disabilities are housing cost burdened compared to 25.2% of people without disabilities in Rhode Island
- In Rhode Island, the poverty rate for people aged 18 to 64 living in the community with disabilities is (24.2%) as opposed to people without (8.3%) which is significant disparity at 15.9%

Percentage of adults in Rhode Island with select functional disability types



Disability Types

Mobility: Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs

Cognition: Serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions

Independent living: Serious difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office

Hearing: Deaf or serious difficulty hearing

Vision: Blind or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses

Self-care: Difficulty dressing or bathing

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Olmstead and Housing

Examples of what we heard from community conversations to date illustrate the importance of this work and the various settings, priorities, and populations for us to consider throughout planning processes and beyond.



"Getting out of prison I had no footing. When I was finally able to get housing, it changed the trajectory of my life... I now have full custody of my kids, started my own business, and support my recovery community."



"He is stuck on a waitlist for affordable housing, and he can't live near me, so I watch him on a camera incase he has a seizure"



A mom had to carry her daughter up and down three flights of stairs to their third-floor apartment because her daughter was in a wheelchair, but they hadn't been able to move

Olmstead and Housing

Other States have used Olmstead Plans to support and/or reaffirm their states commitment to addressing housing and homelessness

- Support programs that divert or transition individuals from nursing facilities or other institutions to community housing options, such as CT811. – Connecticut Olmstead Plan
- Develop new housing alternatives for persons with serious and persistent mental illness who do not need nursing facility level of care. – Connecticut Olmstead Plan
- Adopt policies that encourage incorporation of accessible housing features into new construction so that new housing can support its residents throughout the lifespan. – Connecticut
- Continue and expand State investment in the development of housing that is affordable and accessible for older adults and persons with disabilities. – Connecticut Olmstead Plan
- "OHA will collect data regarding the housing stock or inventory that is available for individuals with SPMI. OHA will also continue to track the number of individuals with SPMI receiving supported housing. This information will be used to make a budget request for affordable housing for individuals with SPMI in connection with OHA's 2017- 2019 budget." – Oregon Olmstead Plan
- OMHSAS will provide necessary supports and assistance to counties to create a variety of residential housing options, further reducing the reliance on congregate settings of more than sixteen (16) beds for persons with mental illness. – Pennsylvania Olmstead Plan

