



Housing Governance Report

Updates & Phase I Analysis

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Overview

- Overview of the statutory requirement
- Approach
- Process
- Phase 1:
 - Review of current statutes and survey responses
 - Discussion of current system strengths/challenges
- Next Steps

The FY25 Enacted Budget included a new reporting requirement for the Department of Housing. This report – due December 31, 2024 – will review and recommend options for housing governance.

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.”

Why now?

- RI continues to experience a housing crisis – examining governance will allow us to continue to consider how we can maximize efforts and resources across entities to address the crisis.
- There have been many changes in governance for housing over the years. How can we continue to iterate to ensure the core capacity of each entity is being leveraged and clarify the roles and responsibilities across entities?

Approach

- There has been significant work done to review and consider the best approach for governance of housing functions in Rhode Island. This report will build on these efforts, not start from scratch. Recent efforts include:
 - Boston Consulting Group Report, 2022
 - Visualizing RI's Ecosystem, 2022 – HousingWorks Mapping
 - Housing Department Governance Report, 2022
 - State Comprehensive Plans
 - Entities' Strategic Plans
 - State Housing Planning Process (ongoing)
- We are not coming to this process with pre-defined answers; we are going to ask many questions throughout this process, with the goal of framing opportunities and their tradeoffs.
- We will continually provide updates on the report and have a process of iteration; the goal is not to have a 'big reveal' at the end.

What other reports or documents should be incorporated?

Process Overview

Summary of Report Process



Study Limitations

- Timeline
- Timing with related initiatives
- Capacity

Engagement and Input

This process will involve many different ways to engage, including:

- Regular discussions at public meetings, including at the Housing Resources Commission and Continuum of Care.
To date:
 - HRC 8/20
 - HRC 9/17
 - RCoC 10/3
- Stakeholder interviews and focus groups, especially at the landscape analysis and develop/review options phases
- Email listserv updates on report progress and opportunities to review
- Webpage with updates, resources, drafts, and upcoming meetings: <https://housing.ri.gov/data-reports/housing-governance-report-2024>

Process Overview

Summary of Report Process



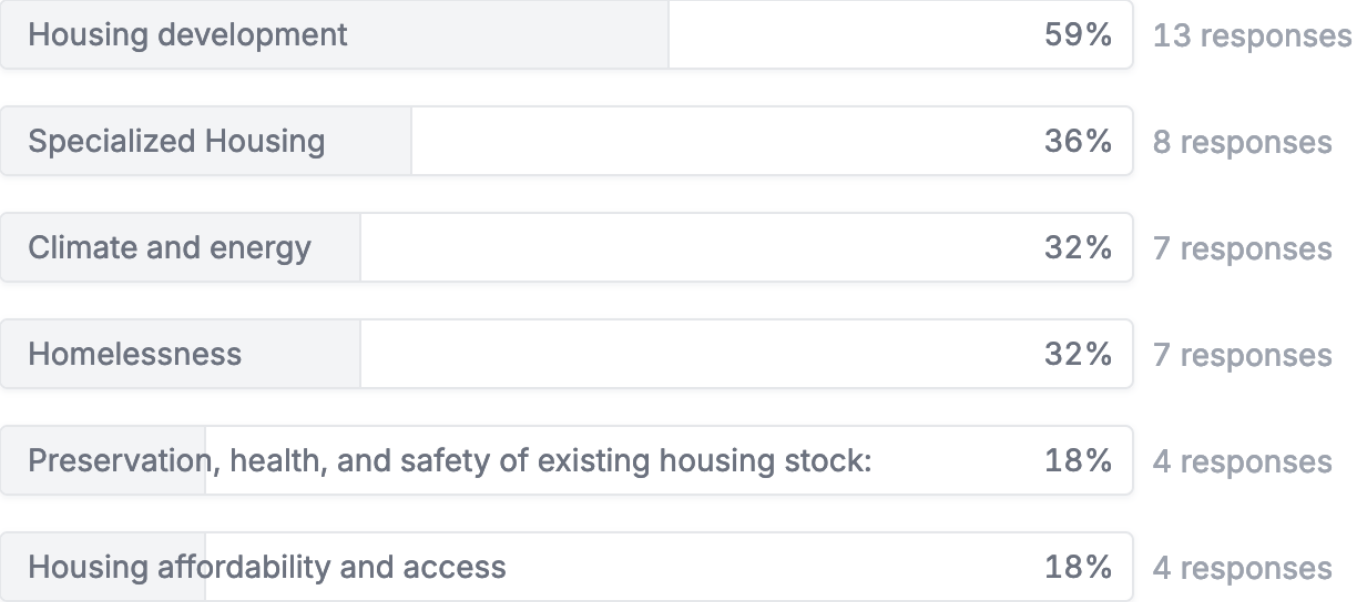
Landscape analysis inputs to-date

New Qualitative Information (still in process!)

Stakeholder interviews: 7 interviews to date

Stakeholder survey: 4 responses to date

Organizational Survey: 22 responses to date



Policy Area: Homelessness

Homelessness includes activities related to addressing homelessness, including prevention, intervention, and planning activities.

State Statute

- Strategy/Policy:
 - [Department of Housing:](#) “The department of housing shall be the state’s lead agency for housing, homelessness, and community development in the state of Rhode Island.”
 - [Interagency Council on Homelessness:](#) “To participate in the process of developing a strategic plan to end homelessness aligned with the federal strategic plan to end homelessness that will serve to reduce the number of homeless individuals and families in Rhode Island”
- Programs/Financing:
 - [HRC Restricted Receipt](#); [HRC Office of Homeless Services](#); [Interagency Council on Homelessness- Coordination](#); [Department of Housing](#)
- Regulation/Enforcement: [State Police-Monitoring of Hate Crimes](#)
- Data: [Homeless Bill of Rights](#)

**Note: this section analyzes State Statute; RICOc is established by federal law – HEARTH Act – which is not reflected in current state statute.*

Organizational Survey Summary (to date)

31.8% (7/22) survey respondents noted a role in homelessness.

- Strategy/Policy: (7 respondents) Several entities are charged with strategic planning activities: Department of Housing, RICOc, and Interagency Council on Homelessness. Overdose Task Force and EOHHS develop strategies around prevention and services.
- Programs/Financing: (5 respondents) RICOc administers more than \$15M; Dept of Housing CHF; BHDDH has PATH (\$0.3M) and RISEN (\$1M); RIH has PSH and services in affordable housing developments; EOHHS has programs for individuals who are unsheltered and/or justice-involved.
- Regulation/Enforcement: (5 respondents) RICOc and Dept of Housing monitor their programs for compliance. RICOc also oversees HMIS and CES in line with federal rules. DBR reviews building use for shelter services.
- Data: (5 respondents) RICOc designates the HMIS lead (currently RICEH) which is also responsible for the PIT; EOHHS Ecosystem matches data at the person level and has ability to match with HMIS; program-level data available from RICOc and Dept of Housing.

**Note: Several organizations are still compiling their survey responses. This summary reflects responses received as of 9/29/24.*

Homelessness: Current Strengths & Opportunities

Discussion

Current System Strengths: What about the structure/organization is working well?

- Strategy/policy
- Programs/Financing
- Regulation/enforcement
- Data

Current System Opportunities/Challenges: What about the structure/organization could be improved?

- Strategy/policy
- Programs/Financing
- Regulation/enforcement
- Data

Next Steps

- Continued collection and analysis of survey results, stakeholder interviews
- Adding capacity for completing the study
- Moving into Phase 2 – setting criteria



Thank you!

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