



Interagency Council on Housing Production and Preservation Executive Office of Housing

February 17, 2026

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Meeting Agenda

- Permitting and Regulatory Reform Updates and Discussion
 - Housing 2030 Data Hub
 - RI General Laws Chapter 42-128.2 – Expedited Permitting for Affordable Housing
 - Consulting services on state building code updates
- Other Executive Office of Housing Updates and Discussion
 - Advisory Council on Housing and Homelessness update
 - Housing Bond and Other Housing Production Funding Updates
- Other Updates from Council Members

Executive Office of Housing Data Hub

In draft version for now, the EOH Data Hub will enable us to track progress on Housing 2030 goals, visualize data, and share helpful information with municipalities and stakeholders.

Executive Office of Housing Data Hub

Welcome to the Executive Office of Housing's Data Hub!

Explore these pages to find relevant data and information about Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, low- and moderate-income housing, the *Housing 2030* Plan, and progress on the state's ambitious goal of permitting 15,000 units by the end of 2030.

The goal in publishing this data hub is to provide elected officials, public employees, and all Rhode Islanders with valuable information about how their state is performing. We hope this tool is a valuable resource for community partners and stakeholders to explore data and understand the impact of EOH's policies and programs.

You can navigate the hub using the buttons to the right, or via the menu on the top right of the page. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the data presented here, please visit <https://housing.ri.gov/about-eoh/contact-us> to get in touch.

Navigation buttons:

- About Housing 2030
- Housing Market Data
- Municipal Data Profiles
- Municipal Text Profiles
- Permitting Progress
- Low and Moderate Income Housing

[Link to draft Data Hub](#)

Expedited Permitting for Affordable Housing

RI General Laws Chapter 42-128.2

- Aims to accelerate the state permitting process for qualifying affordable housing projects
- Goal is to minimize delays, prevent unnecessary costs, reduce stalled developments, and protect access to federal and other funding sources
- An applicant requests the (EOH) designate a project as a Project of Critical Housing Concern
 - “designated by [EOH] to be significant, in its operational stage, by its ability to advance affordable goals set forth in duly approved plans for affordable housing and to help alleviate affordable housing shortages in Rhode Island”
- Meets criteria of a project of critical concern as determined by EOH and demonstrates consistency with state affordable housing plan as determined by Statewide Planning

Approval Process for Project of Critical Housing Concern

- Within 5 days - the Secretary refers the request to statewide planning
- Within 20 days - Statewide planning must determine whether the project is consistent with the State Guide Plan element for Housing (Housing 2030)
- If approved, EOH must issue a written decision within 60 days of the original filing and may issue a Certificate of Critical Housing Concern
- The certificate is valid for 2 years and must be filed with the relevant state permitting/licensing agency at the time permit applications are submitted the agency must give the project priority processing

Permitting Agency Process

- The agency must give the project priority processing
- Permitting agency must issue a written status report within 3 months of a substantially complete application which “shall contain information, which will enable the person to make a sound business decision as to whether or not to pursue the application”
 - Additional monthly reports at end of 4th, 5th and 6th months if needed
- If no decision by the end of the 6th month, the agency must provide monthly status reports (to applicant, statewide planning, and Housing) until a final decision is made
- The certificate does not waive any legal or regulatory requirements
- The legislation does not change anything regarding permitting process or timelines for approvals on the municipal level

Next steps

- EOH has been raising awareness of the statute with homebuilders, developers, and municipalities
- We would like to hear feedback on the process and law from Interagency Council members
- Based on those discussions we may seek to revisit the language of the law and/or regulations
 - Goal is a process that is helpful to developers of affordable housing and also manageable for state agencies

Consultant for Code Reform

Enacted in 2025, **House Bill 5804/Senate Bill 1089** directed the Building Code Standards Committee to adopt and promulgate the International Residential Code (IRC) for 1-4 unit buildings.

- 1-2 Family dwellings previously considered under IRC and 3+ unit dwellings considered under International Building Code (IBC).
- A BCSC sub-committee has been established to review current code and write amendments to residential code to include 3-4 family dwelling units.
- EOH has made funds available from our Pathways to Reducing Obstacles to Housing grant (PRO Housing) to assist with this process.
- EOH may also seek a consultant to review inconsistencies between the IBC/IRC and Rhode Island Life Safety Code and suggest amendments or clarifications on conflicts.

Update on Advisory Council on Housing & Homelessness

First Meeting: March 5, 2026 | 9:30am-10:30am | DOA Conference Room 2A

- **Membership:**

- Russ Partridge, Former ED of WARM Center – Chairperson
- Jeff Hamill, RIPEC
- Melina Lodge, Housing Network of RI
- Erik Wallin, Operation Stand Down
- Dina Bruce, Open Doors RI
- Ramon Feliz, RI Builders Association
- Peter Chapman, One Neighborhood Builders
- Jeanne Cola, LISC
- Paula McFarland, Warwick Housing Authority
- Phil Tedesco, RI Realtors
- Michelle Wilcox, Crossroads
- Randy Rossi, RI League of Cities & Towns
- Benjamin Pettit, Mortgage Bankers Association
- Eric Busch, Peregrine Group
- Claudia Wack, Klein Hornig LLP
- Ben Darby, Women's Development Corp
- Steve Flores, RI Legal Services
- David Murphy, Westerly Building Official
- Shannon Weinstein, RentProv Realty
- David Caldwell, Caldwell & Johnson Custom Builders

UPDATE ON 2024 HOUSING BOND AND OTHER FUNDING

Updates on the work to allocate 2024 housing bond. Gov. McKee has proposed an additional \$120M housing bond to go on the 2026 ballot

\$66M dedicated to “One Stop” RFP with RIHousing

- About 3 dozen applications submitted requesting more than \$176 million in funds for these programs
- \$30M in State LITHC for FY26 included in RFP – more than 4x in requests

\$29M Infrastructure, Homeownership, and Public Development

**EOH run programs*

- \$8M for infrastructure for housing developments
- \$1M for A&E for infrastructure for municipalities
- \$10M open now for Homeownership development
- \$10M open now for Public Development

\$11M in programs run by partners

- \$6M home repair program through the Providence Revolving Fund
- \$5M towards a site acquisition fund for nonprofits (partner TBD). The Site Acquisition Fund will be at least \$10M total – announcement coming soon

\$14M in programs still under development or pending release

- Second round of homeownership (\$10M) expected in June
- Pipeline expeditor coming this spring (\$4M)

Other New Business

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday May 19, 2026