



INVESTNH MUNICIPAL PLANNING & ZONING GRANT PROGRAM: COMMUNITY HOUSING NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between the Community Housing Navigator grant and the Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) grant?

The **Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grant Program** allows municipalities to hire consultants to work on various phases of regulatory change to increase housing supply.

In contrast, the **Community Housing Navigator Program** is a one-time opportunity for municipalities to hire staff to work on community engagement and local regulatory change to increase housing supply. Community Housing Navigators will serve as local coordinators of housing regulatory changes and housing development activities, as well as working on at least one of the regulatory change phases identified in the HOP Grant Program.

Information and application instructions for both programs are at www.NHHOPgrants.org

Can a community that has been awarded a Community Housing Navigator grant apply for a HOP grant?

Yes. While Community Housing Navigators must work on one of the phases identified in the HOP Grant Program, municipalities may also seek HOP grants to hire consultants to work on those and other phases of regulatory change.

When is the application for the Community Housing Navigator grants due?

Applications for the Community Housing Navigator program are due September 30, 2022. Grants will be awarded by October 14, 2022.

What will Community Housing Navigators do? What qualities or skill sets make a good Community Housing Navigator?

While Community Housing Navigators may have the experience and technical expertise of a planner, one of the principle aims of the Navigator is to be a community organizer, facilitating community engagement activities to increase understanding and acceptance of regulatory change.

See the sample job description at www.NHHOPgrants.org.

How often will decisions be made? How quickly can we expect a decision to be made after an application is submitted?

Awards will be made on or before October 14, 2022.



Do the applications need to go to Governor and Council for approval?

No. The Steering Committee will make final decisions on grant applications.

What if we receive a grant, but are unable to find a qualified candidate to hire as our Community Housing Navigator?

Grantees will have up to three months from the grant award date to hire a Community Housing Navigator. If a Navigator is not hired by that time, the Steering Committee will work with the community to determine whether proceeding with the grant is feasible.

May we submit a draft of our application to the Steering Committee for feedback prior to submitting a final draft?

Yes. We encourage you to reach out to the Steering Committee to make an informal inquiry or submit a brief concept paper – we're happy to discuss your proposal before you apply. Please email info@NHHOPgrants.org on or before [September 16](#).

When is Housing Academy and what is the time commitment?

The first Housing Academy will begin with a kickoff webinar on October 7, 2022. Housing Academy will then meet in person or virtually once per month for 2-4 hours per session.

Participants in Housing Academy will be able to seek one-on-one guidance from Molly Donovan, at UNH Cooperative Extension, during her office hours.

Grantees awarded later in the process will be able to join Housing Academy at a later date.

Who should we invite to attend Housing Academy?

Each grantee should plan to send 1-3 people to Housing Academy. If space is available, grantees may be able to send additional people. Participants might include municipal staff, members of local land use boards or governing bodies, or other engaged citizens. In their application, applicants may include a budget request for a \$250 stipend per volunteer to attend Housing Academy. Municipal staff are not eligible for the stipend. *Note: Community Housing Navigators are expected to attend Housing Academy.*

In the case of a joint application, is a single municipality expected to serve as the lead contract entity/fiscal agent?

Joint applications may only be coordinated by a regional planning commission or a regional housing coalition (limited to Vital Communities, the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast, or the Mount Washington Valley Housing Coalition). The joint application coordinator would serve as the lead contract entity and would employ the Community Housing Navigator.