

2022 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOMES

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES: Daria Montaquila, Community Relations Specialist
dmontaquila@housingnetworkri.org

OTHER QUESTIONS?
info@homesri.org

Over the past year, Homes RI advocated for State Leaders to make a substantial investment of American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery (ARPA SFR) funds to improve housing stability for Rhode Islanders. On June 27, 2022, Governor Dan McKee signed a \$13.6 billion state budget, which dedicates nearly one-quarter of Rhode Island's ARPA SFR funds to affordable homes and homelessness prevention. The FY23 budget allocates \$221 million to housing, on top of \$29 million approved by lawmakers in January 2022 as part of the RI Rebounds Act. The \$250 million total represents an historic level of investment providing critical financial resources for housing development, expanded homeownership opportunities, and support for people experiencing homelessness. Homes RI thanks the RI General Assembly and Governor McKee for demonstrating a commitment to meet the serious need for more homes and services for people experiencing housing insecurity across Rhode Island.






Homes RI is composed of many committed partners and supporters and our coalition will continue to build on this success in the coming years. We offer the deepest appreciation to our community partners and advocates across the state for their hard work and strong advocacy for safe, healthy, affordable homes.

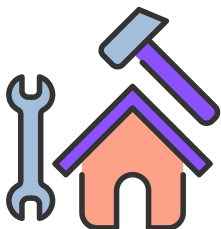
RHODE ISLAND FY23 STATE BUDGET HOUSING PROVISIONS

Funded through American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Funds

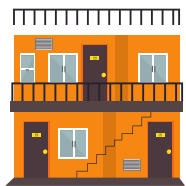
See attached document for complete break down of the housing provisions provided in the RI state budget.

STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

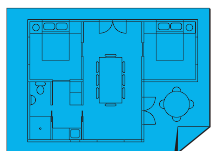
-  \$85 million to build affordable homes for low income households, distributed over fiscal years '23, '24, and '25.
-  \$30 million for down payment assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers, distributed over fiscal years '23, '24, and '25.
-  \$25 million to support a program that provides financing to re-develop properties that are vacant and/or in need of rehabilitation. The program is targeted to projects in disproportionately impacted & low-income communities. Funds will be distributed over fiscal years '23 and '24.
-  \$35 million to prevent and end homelessness, through programs administered by the Office of Housing and Community Development.
-  \$2 million to develop a Statewide Housing Plan to address current and future housing needs, barriers to housing access, and identify critical services for disproportionately impacted residents.

PRODUCE, PROTECT & PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOMES
\$183 MILLION INVESTMENT**\$85 million to build homes for low-income households**

- \$30M for FY23, \$30M allocated for FY24, \$25M allocated for FY25
- \$10M of these funds will be invested in a pilot project to provide financing for construction and project-based rental assistance for public housing.

**\$20 million to build homes for moderate-income households**

- \$12M for FY23, \$8M for FY24

**\$10 million to support pre-development activities to build affordable homes**

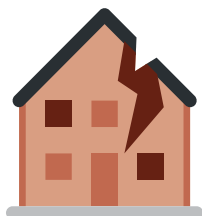
- Pre-development activities include things like applying for project financing, legal work, architectural and engineering assessments, and other work needed to help prepare for construction.
- \$2.5M allocated for FY23, \$2.5M for FY24, \$2.5M for FY25, \$2.5M for FY26

**\$13 million to acquire property that can be used for affordable homes**

- These funds, administered by RIHousing, will help builders acquire land and existing properties to build homes for very-low and low-income people.
- \$3M allocated for FY23, \$5M for FY24, \$5M for FY25

**\$30 million for down payment assistance to help people purchase their first home**

- RIHousing will provide \$17,500 in assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers.
- \$10M allocated for FY23, \$10M for FY24, \$10M for FY25

**\$25 million investment in RIHousing's Acquisition & Revitalization program**

- The ARP program provides financing to re-develop properties that are vacant, foreclosed, and/or in need of rehabilitation.
- \$10M allocated for FY23, \$15M for FY24

HOUSING ACCESS & STABILITY

\$35 MILLION



\$20 million investment in services to prevent and end homelessness

- These funds will be administered through the Office of Housing and Community Development and will support programs that provide:
 - help finding and obtaining housing to people experiencing homelessness
 - behavioral healthcare
 - housing stabilization services
 - operating subsidies for homes built for extremely low-income ($\leq 30\%$ AMI) households
 - supportive services to help people transitioning into housing
 - \$7M allocated for FY23, \$7M for FY24, \$6M allocated for FY25



\$15 million to acquire or build temporary and permanent shelter to address pandemic-related homelessness

- \$10 million of this allocation will support housing-based programs and services administered by Crossroads RI.

SUPPORT TO STATE TO CREATE AND PRESERVE SAFE & HEALTHY HOMES

\$3 MILLION



\$1 million to increase staffing at the State Office of Housing and Community Development

- New staff will support research and data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and programs for homeless services.
- \$500K allocated for FY23 and \$500K for FY24



\$2 million to create a Statewide Housing Plan

- The plan will address current and future housing needs, barriers to housing access, identify critical services for disproportionately impacted residents, and support cities and towns to meet their low and moderate income residents' housing needs.

2022 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Homes RI supports removing legal, administrative, regulatory, and economic barriers to accessing quality homes. During the 2022 legislative session, over 100 bills related to housing were introduced. Many bills were aimed at addressing barriers to building, accessing, and retaining safe, healthy, affordable homes. In June, the House and Senate approved a package of ten bills designed to streamline affordable housing production, and help cities and towns meet low and moderate income housing goals. Homes RI is pleased that lawmakers recognize the importance of enacting legislation that reduces barriers and promotes housing stability for Rhode Islanders. Below is a summary of housing legislation that was tracked this year and the results. We look forward to continuing our collective advocacy for policy changes that increase the supply of affordable homes, reduce evictions, and increase housing security in 2023.

REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SAFE, HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE HOMES**The package of housing bills signed into law on July 5, 2022:**

- Elevates the Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Housing to Secretary of Housing, a cabinet-level position that reports directly to the Governor and creates a new department of housing (H7940Aaa / S3058)
- Incentivizes cities and towns to build more rental homes for low income households (H7941A / S3044)
- Creates a statewide standard for building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (H7942B / S2623A)
- Creates a state-level process to explore converting vacant schools to affordable homes (H7943A / S3048)
- Requires RIHousing, the Housing Resources Commission, OHCD, and Statewide Planning to provide data to drive responsive policymaking related to affordable homes and land use (H7944A/S3051, H7945A / S3045, H7946A / S3049, H7947A / S3052)
- Adds two voting members to the State Housing Appeals Board (SHAB) that represent tenant interests (Center for Justice and Direct Action for Rights and Equality) (H7945A / S3045)
- Makes administrative changes to streamline decision-making on affordable home development (H7949Aaa / S3046A)
- Strengthens provisions for affordable housing monitoring agents, who serve in a stewardship role to make sure deed-restricted affordable homes remain available to income-qualified residents (H7950A / S3050).

For more information, visit www.housingnetworkri.org

Legislation that passed and was signed by Governor:

- H8078B and S2857A extend the time frame in which the district court can schedule an eviction hearing from nine days to 14 - 24 days. This is significant because it provides additional time to the tenant to prepare, and helps avoid overscheduling court calendars, ensuring daily court proceedings remain streamlined and efficient.

Legislation to increase housing stability that did not advance out of Committee:

- H7809 / S2214, the Housing Payment Stability Act, would have required landlords to complete their portion of a federal emergency rental assistance application before filing an eviction against a tenant.
- H7894 / SB2223, legislation to implement a statewide registry of rental property owners at the Secretary of State's Office.
- H7892 / S2375 would have sealed court filings of tenants in eviction cases.
- H8221 / S2641 would institute "fair chance" provisions to expand housing access for people impacted by the criminal justice system.
- H7680 / S2381 would prohibit landlords from asking tenants about their immigration status.

Legislation that passed in the Senate, but not the House:

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention Act, H8153 / S2765Aaa would have established a plan to replace lead service lines at low or no cost to residents, and set guidelines to notify renters of existing lead lines to their residence.



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Published materials



Bills tracked



Press Releases



"Say Yes to Invest" Events

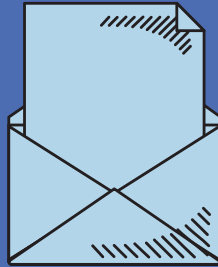
TESTIMONY PROVIDED

In March, Homes RI and partners submitted written and verbal testimony for House and Senate bills entitled "An Act Making Appropriations For The Support Of The State For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023" - Section 1, Article 16 - Housing initiatives: Governor's proposal for \$250M investments.

**22**

partners
submitted written
testimony to House
Finance Committee

URGING LEADERS TO SAY "YES" TO INVEST

1,629
letters sent

As part of our advocacy efforts, Homes RI drafted a letter tool to Rhode Island General Assembly members urging them to support increased investments in affordable housing and say "YES" to investing \$500 million of American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

NEWS MENTIONS

6

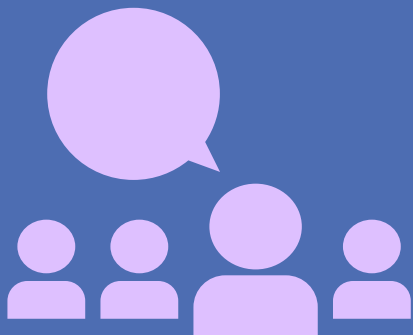
News articles
mentioning "Homes RI"*

> 100

News articles mentioning
Homes RI partners*



*since September 2021



OP-EDS FROM SUPPORTERS

Sen. Meghan Kallman & Rep. June Speakman, Providence Journal, October 2021

ARPA funds can help to solve RI's housing crisis

Karen Santilli, Providence Journal, December 2021

The future of homelessness will be decided this winter

Kristina Brown, Providence Journal, January 2022

The biggest barrier to housing in RI? Local planning boards

Karen Santilli & Jennifer Hawkins, Boston Globe, May 2022

More investment needed to solve housing crisis in Rhode Island

Laura Jaworski, Boston Globe, May 2022

The ultimate solution to homelessness in R.I.: Safe and affordable housing

Jeanne Cola, Providence Journal, June 2022

Governor, legislature must do more to address housing crisis

2022 TESTIMONY REVIEW

BILLS THAT HNRI PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AND WERE PASSED:

Increase production of new housing options:

- H7942B / S2623A - ADUs
- H7943A / S3048 - Repurpose of vacant schools

Improve state administration processes:

- H7940-Aaa / SB3058 - Housing Secretary
- H7944A / S3051 - RIHousing LMI unit report
- H7946A / S3049 - HCVP and fee-in-lieu reports
- H7947A / S3052 - Statewide Planning report
- H7950-A / S3050 - Monitoring agents

Incentivize rental developments under a comprehensive permit & improve the effectiveness of the SHAB:

- H7941A / S3044 - Counts multi-family units
- H7945A / S3045 - SHAB composition
- H7949Aaa / S3046A - SHAB administration

Improve election processes:

- H7100 / S2007 - Let RI Vote Act

BILLS THAT HNRI PROVIDED TESTIMONY ON THAT WERE HELD FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Increase production of new housing options:

- H7948-A - Mobile homes

Increase tenant protections:

- H7892 / S2375 - Eviction file sealing
- H7893 / S2214 - Housing Payment Stability
- S2381 / H7680 - Tenant immigration status
- S2641 / H8221 - Fair Chance Housing Act
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Improve state administration processes:

- S2223 / H7894 - Statewide rental registry
- H8183 - RIHousing HCVP public database
- S2008 - Fee-in-lieu
- S2622 - Community Opportunity to Purchase
- H7579 / S2013 - TSA / Inclusionary Zoning
- H8057 - Comprehensive Affordability Act
- S2264 / H7440 - Revenue for RI
- S2859 - Emergency Housing
- H7789 / S2316-A - Raising RI (RIWorks)
- S2557 / H7829 - Open meetings & translation

Improve election processes:

- H7225 / S2216 - Same Day Voter Registration

Improve public health and safety:

- H8153 / S2765 - Lead Poisoning Prevention

Press Mentions

WPRI, October 2021
 "Housing Hurdles"

Boston Globe, March 2022
 "Despite unprecedented federal dollars, housing advocates say R.I. still isn't designating enough funds to build, preserve units"

WPRI, April 2022
 "Could you afford an apartment in the new 'Superman' building?"

Providence Journal, April 2022
 "Mobile homes or mansions? Rhode Island affordable housing bill sparks confusion"

Uprise, May 2022
 "Speaker Shekarchi and advocates call for investments in housing using APRA funds"

Providence Journal, June 2022
 "Just getting more and more dire': Senate panel weighs 'bold' affordable housing proposal"

Whats Up Newp, June 2022
 "Assembly approves bills to help address housing crisis"

Governor Press Release, June 2022
 "What People Are Saying About the Signing of the Historic FY2023 State Budget"

DATA REVIEW

124

Bills tracked

42

Total written testimonies provided

3

Press Releases

- *Non-profit Housing Developers can Produce Over 1900 Affordable Homes in the Next Three Years*
- *Response to Governor's proposal to invest \$250 million ARPA funds in housing.*
- *Housing Network of RI Responds to Housing Provisions in FY23 Budget*