



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 2020-22**

**An Order Establishing the Council on Housing Stability**

**WHEREAS**, housing stability in New Hampshire is a significant challenge that leaves some of our most vulnerable citizens without access to the means necessary to meet their basic human needs; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 4,230 individuals were documented as receiving shelter or transitional services in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, children represented 19 percent of those staying at state-sponsored shelters last year; and

**WHEREAS**, there were 4,043 homeless school-aged children documented in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the vacancy rate is 1.8% and the median rent is \$1,413 for a 2 bedroom unit in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, housing ends homelessness and creates stability for children, adults, families, business, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, greater access to affordable housing will assist New Hampshire businesses and strengthen the state's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability often have other conditions impacting their situation; and

**WHEREAS**, housing stability is one of the Social Determinants of Health and is essential for all children, adults, and families to thrive in New Hampshire; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in housing is a better solution for individuals, families, and communities creating improved health, social, educational, and economic outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, needed services and supports should be decided upon in each community, based on the unique assets, resources, strengths, challenges, and needs unique to each area of the state.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR** of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order that:

1. A Council on Housing Stability shall be established for the purposes of creating and implementing a plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the State of New Hampshire.
2. The Council shall develop and monitor a plan which makes recommendations to address and/or undertake the following:
  - a. Necessary measures to strengthen New Hampshire's housing market and to create housing stability for all citizens.
  - b. Conduct an affordable housing needs assessment in each county to determine the housing deficit.
  - c. The barriers to affordable housing and what can be done to remove such barriers.
  - d. The necessary system of care to support individuals and families to obtain and maintain stable housing.
  - e. Integrate and coordinate a housing stability governance structure across state government and connect to local communities by conducting ongoing needs assessment and strategic planning.
  - f. Enhance the interoperability of data systems within and across government agencies to inform and monitor program and service access, equity, and quality.
  - g. Have housing options available throughout citizens' lifespans, based on the needs and desire people have at different times of their life.
  - h. Develop a comprehensive update to the State's plan on homelessness.
3. The Council shall include the following members to be appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor:
  - a. Two individuals, one being a parent and one being a young adult, who has current and/or recent lived experience with housing instability.
  - b. Commissioners, or designees, of the following agencies:
    - i. Department of Health & Human Services
    - ii. Department of Education
    - iii. Department of Safety
    - iv. Department of Transportation
    - v. Department of Business & Economic Affairs
    - vi. Department of Corrections
    - vii. Department of Employment Security
    - viii. Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs
    - ix. New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority
    - x. Community Development Finance Authority
  - c. The Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Housing Supports.
  - d. The Director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services or designee.
  - e. The Director of the Division of Economic & Housing Stability or designee.
  - f. The Director of the Division of Children, Youth, and Families or designee.
  - g. One representative of each of NH's Continuum of Care for Housing, designed by each continuum.
  - h. A representative of the Municipal Association.
  - i. A representatives of a local educational agency.
  - j. A representative of the DOE responsible for programs for children experiencing homelessness.
  - k. A representative of NH landlord Association.
  - l. A representative of NH Builder's Association.

- m. A representative of local providers of housing services.
  - n. A representative of Housing Action New Hampshire.
  - o. A representative of a County Economic Development Council.
  - p. A representative of the Community Mental Health Association, appointed by the association.
  - q. A representative of the faith based community.
  - r. A representative of a member agency of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, nominated by that coalition.
  - s. Two representatives of the philanthropic community with expertise in housing instability.
  - t. A representative of the business community with an interest in affordable housing.
  - u. Three legislators, one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the House
  - v. Any other individual or representative of an organization or entity that the Governor deems appropriate to support the work of the Council.
  - w. Three mayors, or their designees, representing different regions of NH.
  - x. A representative from a law enforcement agency.
4. The Council on Housing Stability shall be led by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, and the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority.
  5. A majority of the appointed Council members shall constitute a quorum and all official actions of the Council shall require a majority vote of those present and voting.
  6. The Council shall be allowed to accept grants and other assistance to support its work upon the approval of the Governor and Executive Council. Any such items shall be brought forward by any Department within the State of New Hampshire that is represented on the Council.
  7. The Council shall submit its preliminary plan, to include at a minimum, legislative recommendations, strategies, and plans for the 2021 Legislative Session to the Governor by December 14, 2020, with a final plan to follow shortly thereafter. The Council shall provide annual reports to the Governor on the Council's activities related to the plan no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  8. Executive Order 2006-11 is hereby rescinded.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 18th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.



**GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**