



Regional Housing Services Office

November 2023 Newsletter

The Boston Foundation releases *Housing Report Card 2023*

The [Greater Boston Housing Report Card](#) is back in 2023 with a fabulous interactive website. You can compare your municipality to others in the region on a series of colorful maps on topics like rent burden, home prices, eviction rates, and numbers/types of building permits issued. The website also offers an Excel chart where you can download all their data points for your municipality. In addition the report dives into one model for preserving naturally-occurring affordable housing: Community Land Trusts.

MBTA zoning changes chugging toward many springtime Town Meetings

Within the past month, Arlington and Brookline joined Lexington in passing zoning changes that reflect the new Housing Choice legislation. Our member towns have been busy with resident surveys, informational sessions, open forums, and Planning Board meetings and most are on track to have an article at spring Town Meeting. Commuter rail and adjacent communities must adopt compliant zoning districts by December 31, 2024. Congratulations to local recipients of FY24 Community Planning Grants from the state that provide technical assistance in complying with the new law: Acton, Concord, Lincoln, and Wayland! Coming up this Saturday: Lincoln's Housing Choice Working Group will present four zoning options at a Special Town Meeting and guide residents through a ranked choice voting method that will select the zoning to be brought to Lincoln's Spring ATM.

A Busy Fall for RHSO

Our beloved long-time colleague Lara Plaskon has moved on to another opportunity after ten years with RHSO. We miss her terribly! We are in the final stages of hiring and hope to have someone on board at the start of January. This fiscal year, we have closed 14 sales of affordable units and are actively marketing 7 more; reviewed many applications for small grants, rental and mortgage assistance across our member communities; as well as assisting with Sudbury's Housing Production Plan and the many projects in the RHSO service area.



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