



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE  
*April 9, 2021*

SEILA MOSQUERA-BRUNO, COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**REMARKS CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 2022 – FY 2023  
BIENNIUM**

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Good Afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Borer, Senator Martin, Representative Piscopo, and the distinguished members of the General Bonding Subcommittee. I am Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of Housing. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Lamont's recommended biennial budget.

The Department Of Housing is committed to its mission which is to ensure everyone has access to quality housing opportunities and options throughout the State of Connecticut. Many of our programs are aimed at preserving our existing stock of affordable housing, as well as capital funding for new development opportunities. Over the past ten years there has been a significant investment into expanding the State's affordable housing stock. During the calendar year of 2020 – we were able to complete 24 projects, which amounted to 804 units constructed or rehabilitated. These projects represented \$36 million dollars in state resources, and \$252 million dollars in total investment. For our current activity – we have 58 projects under construction or rehabilitation, amounting to a little over 1,800 units. This represents \$119 million dollars in state funding, and \$305 million dollars in total investment

We have authorizations in a variety of existing Bond Funds, including the Housing Trust Fund - which serve individuals and families with incomes up to 120% of Area Median Income, and the Affordable Housing Program (commonly referred to as "Flex") - which serves individuals and families with incomes between zero and 80% of AMI. Under the Affordable Housing Program, the Department is authorized to transfer up to \$30 million to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to rehabilitate existing developments within the State Supported Housing Portfolio (SSHP). There were 12 SSHP rehabilitations completed in the calendar year of 2020. That consisted of 492 units, with the total DOH funding in the amount of approximately \$13 million. For current activity in 2021, 6 SSHP rehabilitations have been completed consisting of 341 units. Total DOH funding for this current activity is in the amount of approximately \$14 million.

Although there are existing commitments and awards for some of our current authorizations, there is always ongoing review of the Department's development portfolio. This review is done in consultation with our development partners, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) and other funding partners, with the goal of identifying and prioritizing projects that are ready to move forward quickly. The Department also works closely with the Office of Policy and Management, under our current programs, in order to better align our available funds with the priorities of the Administration.

Governor Lamont's recommended authorizations, for FY 22 & FY 23, across all of these programs is in the neighborhood of \$355 million. The Department of Housing supports the recommended biennial budget submitted to you by Governor Lamont. Thank you for your time, along with members of my staff, we are ready to answer any questions.