



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE
March 20th, 2023

SEILA MOSQUERA-BRUNO, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**REMARKS CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 2024 – FY 2025
BIENNIUM**

Good Morning - Senator Moore, Representative Napoli, 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. There has been a significant investment into expanding the State's affordable housing stock. Over the past 4 years, we have constructed or preserved 6,897 units and have another 7,413 units under construction or pending construction. This represents over \$500 million in state and federal resources invested into housing which has generated over \$3 billion in housing development activities.

Within the Governor's proposed budget, the planned activity is to utilize \$150 million per year to create 2,200 units each year. Also the goal is to utilize \$200 million over the two years to support the creation of 2,000 workforce-housing renters with incomes between 60% and 120% of the Area Median Income. 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 2022 that consisted of 437 units, with the total DOH funding in the amount of approximately \$11.6 million. Additional SSHP activity currently underway includes 11 projects, 357 units, with total DOH funding in the amount of \$11.7 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 24 & FY 25, across all of these programs is in total, about \$600 million. The Department of Housing supports the recommended biennial budget submitted to you by Governor Lamont. Thank you for your time, we are ready to answer any questions.