

CITY OF TORRINGTON



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To: Mayor Elinor Carbone
From: Martin J. Connor, AICP, City Planner
Date: June 16, 2020
Subject: Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Grant

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing (“DOH”) has announced that they are accepting applications for planning grant funds from small municipalities (populations below 50,000) seeking to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of § 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes (“CGS”). This grant opportunity is intended to enable eligible municipalities to undertake a proactive planning process and lay out a strategy for meeting the housing needs of existing and future residents and workers. The grant is being offered on a first come first serve basis. Since Section 8-30j below requires the City to prepare an affordable housing plan it would be in our best interest to apply for the grant to help pay for such a plan. Step one is to have the City Council authorize submission of the grant application and authorize the individual who can sign the grant application and administer the grant. I recommend that the City of Torrington apply for the grant. If you would like, I would be willing to sign and administer the grant. It would be very helpful to use the grant to help prepare and adopt an affordable housing plan as required by Section 8-30 j and would be useful in updating the Torrington Plan of Conservation & Development. I would recommend we apply for the maximum grant assistance of \$15,000.00. Here is the link to the grant information and grant application:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Gold-Bar/Funding-Opportunities>

Sec. 8-30j. Affordable housing plan. Hearing and adoption. Amendments. Filing requirement. (a) At least once every five years, each municipality shall prepare or amend and adopt an affordable housing plan for the municipality. Such plan shall specify how the municipality intends to increase the number of affordable housing developments in the municipality.

(b) The municipality may hold public informational meetings or organize other activities to inform residents about the process of preparing the plan. If the municipality holds a public hearing, at least thirty-five days prior to the public hearing on the adoption, the municipality shall file in the office of the town clerk of such municipality a copy of such draft plan or any amendments to the plan, and if applicable, post such draft plan on the Internet web site of the municipality. After adoption of the plan, the municipality shall file the final plan in the office of the town clerk of such municipality and, if applicable, post the plan on the Internet web site of the municipality.

(c) Following adoption, the municipality shall regularly review and maintain such plan. The municipality may adopt such geographical, functional or other amendments to the plan or parts of the plan, in accordance with the provisions of this section, as it deems necessary. If the municipality fails to amend such plan every five years, the chief elected official of the municipality shall submit a letter to the Commissioner of Housing that explains why such plan was not amended.

Cc: Planning & Zoning Commission
Rista Malanca, Economic Development Director