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Wellesley Receives Housing Choice Initiative Designation

Achievement opens up exclusive grant opportunities for the Town

April 5, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) - The Town of Wellesley has received recognition for efforts aimed to increase and improve housing options in the community. Last week, Wellesley was granted the Housing Choice Initiative designation from State officials. The Massachusetts [Housing Choice Designation](#) rewards municipalities that have produced certain rates or amounts of new housing units in the last five years and that have adopted best practices related to housing production that will sustain a 21st century workforce and increase access to opportunity for Massachusetts residents.

Communities that achieve the Housing Choice Designation have exclusive access to apply for the Housing Choice Grant Program and receive bonus points or other considerations to certain State grant programs. Wellesley was recognized for best practices in:

- Zoning including 40R, Inclusionary Zoning, NRPZ (cluster), and multi-family districts,
- Use of CPC funding towards affordable housing, and
- Recent projects that allowed the Town to achieve 10% subsidized housing inventory

Recently the State awarded \$5 million in grants to 28 communities that are currently part of the Housing Choice Initiative.

“This designation is a result of many years of collaboration on projects from the Planning Board and the Select Board. The grant opportunities this opens up are terrific and increase scoring on upcoming transportation, housing, and municipal grants being considered from a number of departments,” said Wellesley Executive Director Meghan Jop. “While there is still a lot of work ahead to continue to implement the Unified Plan and the Housing Production Plan recommended items, this designation signifies we are moving in the right direction,” she added.

The Town of Wellesley joins 78 other communities in the State that have achieved this designation. Wellesley will be added to the State [map of Housing Choice communities](#) in the coming days.

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