

New York State Pro-Housing Communities Program

The Pro-Housing Communities Program provides a certification program for local governments that are taking action to support housing growth to address the housing shortage throughout the State. The program will certify participating communities, and those communities will receive a preference in the scoring/evaluation of certain discretionary funding grants.

Program Overview

There are two options for certification in the Pro-Housing Community program.

Option 1:

Communities that can show that their housing permitting has increased by a set percentage in the last year or in aggregate of the last three years will submit that permitting documentation (planning and building permits) to be considered for designation. In addition, these communities will be required to submit documentation on their zoning code, zoning map, and last five years of housing permitting, including planning, zoning, site plans, and building permits.

Option 2:

Communities that have not yet seen housing growth can also achieve Pro-Housing Communities designation. A community can take the following actions to achieve certification: 1) pass a resolution stating their commitment to Pro-Housing principles, and 2) submit documentation on their zoning code, zoning map, and last five years of housing permitting, including planning, zoning, site plans, and building permits.

Submission Timeline and Renewals

Initial Designation

Applications will be open as of late Auguste. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. HCR will provide a determination of certification within 90 days of a complete submission.

Designation Renewals

After the original designation, municipalities must submit annual information including building permits data by the end of Q1 of the following year (March 31) in order to maintain their Pro-Housing Community designation.

Deadline for notifying grant agencies

HCR will provide a list of all qualifying municipalities to the agencies on the list of eligible grants prior to the grant submission deadlines. Municipalities should include their designation, if received, in their applications for the eligible grants.

Eligible Grant Programs

The programs currently using the Pro-Housing Communities designation include:

- Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) – Department of State
- NY Forward program – Department of State
- NY Main Street program – Homes and Community Renewal
- Regional Council Capital Fund – Empire State Development
- Market New York (capital grants only) – Empire State Development
- Long Island Investment Fund (LIIF) – Empire State Development
- Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund – Empire State Development
- Public Transportation Modernization Enhancement Program (MEP) – Department of Transportation
- Additional programs may be added in the future

Only municipal applicants are eligible for the Pro-Housing Communities certification. Nonprofit or other entities may still apply for grants from the above programs if they qualify.

Achieving the Pro-Housing Communities designation is not required prior to applying to any of the above grants, and applicants will not be penalized for not having the designation.

For More Information

If you have additional questions about the Pro-Housing Communities program, visit our website at <https://hcr.ny.gov/pro-housing-community-program>.

To reach the Pro-Housing team, you can send an email to prohousing@hcr.ny.gov.

1. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: OPTION 1

- Letter of Intent from authorized representative of the municipality
- Zoning map file in a format readable by standard GIS software (shapefile, etc)
- Zoning code summary (Excel template from HCR site)
- Housing Planning and Building Permit information from prior five years (2018-2022; Excel template from HCR site)
- Documentation that the locality's housing stock has increased by 1% (MTCD counties) or by 0.33% in the remaining NYS counties over the past year (Excel template from HCR site) **OR**
- Documentation that in the last three years, the aggregate growth of the housing stock relative to the 2020 US Census was 3% (MTCD counties) or 1% in upstate counties (Excel template from HCR site)

2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: OPTION 2

- Letter of Intent from authorized representative of the municipality
- Executed Pro-Housing Community Resolution by relevant governing body (town/village council, board, etc)
- Zoning map file in a format readable by standard GIS software (shapefile, etc)
- Zoning code summary (Excel template from HCR site)
- Housing Planning and Building Permit information from prior five years (2018-2022; Excel template from HCR site)