

Chesterfield was the recipient of a **Housing Opportunity Planning** grant this spring. These grants are state grants using federal funds to allow New Hampshire towns to explore housing choice and availability. Because there have been so many questions about this grant and the work it is funding the consultants have put together an FAQ.

How does this affect our taxes? No town funds were used for this project.

Is Chesterfield required to build more housing? No. This project is intended to help the town understand how the current zoning regulations affect what gets built in Chesterfield and how that affects housing costs and availability.

What have these consultants produced? The work began with a thorough examination of every ordinance in Chesterfield that affects housing. That document is known as a **Code Audit**. The audit showed that Chesterfield does not allow much of any kind of housing except single unit detached houses on large lots.

The other document produced is a **Housing Needs Assessment**, which examines local demographics against the current housing stock. It showed a mismatch between the housing stock and the local population: one third of all households in Chesterfield are one person households, another third are two person households, but the housing stock is predominantly large single houses.

Both these documents are available on the town website.

The consultants also updated the housing and demographics chapter of the town's Master Plan, a document which is required by state statute.

Do we have to change our ordinances to allow different kinds of housing? No. This work is intended to provide information about changes the town might want to make. For example, the planning board is considering some changes to the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance based on information from the process. Any change proposed would go to town meeting for a town-wide vote.

What is this Housing Camp that we received a postcard about? Housing Camp is a series of evening presentations and conversations about housing issues. The first sessions covered what affordable means, where we are with housing availability both in the state and in Chesterfield, and all about ADUs. The final Housing Camp will be held on **Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Town Hall. The last session will focus on housing choices beyond single family detached.

How can I get involved? You can come to Housing Camp or you can reach out to the consultants if you would like to offer your experience of housing in Chesterfield. If you are part of a regular group one of the consultants would be happy to come talk to your group about the work and hear what you think.

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