

### **Town Manager Communications: Housing Choice Designation Renewal Application**

The Town's Housing Choice designation is due for renewal on Friday April 18, 2025. Started by the Baker Administration in 2018, the Housing Choice Designation is a grant opportunity provided by the State to support infrastructure projects impacted by new housing. There are currently 98 communities that have achieved this designation.

Communities are required to renew their Housing Choice designation every five years. In order to qualify for renewal, a municipality needs to have been previously designated, produced a certain rate or amount of new housing units over the last five years, and has met best practices related to housing production. The Town of Barnstable meets and exceeds the standards required by the State for this designation.

The Housing Choice designation provides exclusive admission to the Housing Choice Community Grant Program and priority access to various participating Housing Choice programs including MassWorks, Complete Streets, MassDOT capital projects, and LAND and PARC grants. Housing Choice Communities are also eligible to receive a 0.5% discount on the interest rate for State Revolving Fund loans which Barnstable takes advantage of now. Over the past five years through the Town's designation as a Housing Choice Community and in collaboration with community partners, the Town has received over a million dollars in direct grant funding through the Housing Choice Community Grant Program in support of infrastructure improvement projects such as the Crocker Street water line, Pleasant Street sewer line, and the 725 Main Street sewer pump station in addition to being provided preferred status on many other grants.

To take advantage of this opportunity the Town Manager shall file the renewal application by the deadline on Friday April 18, 2025.

### **Town Manager Communications: LCP**

The Town of Barnstable is currently working to update the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) which is a long-term vision and growth policy that will guide Barnstable's future over the next ten years. A full draft of the Local Comprehensive Plan is available for review and comment. The draft Plan is accessible from the project website [BarnstableLCP.com](http://BarnstableLCP.com) via the [Document Library page](#). Hard copies of the draft Plan are available at each of the Town's libraries and the Barnstable Adult Community Center. The public comment period is open through Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be submitted online via the project website or dropped off or mailed to: Planning & Development, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, 02601. The comments will be distributed to the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee for review and consideration.

Town staff, together with members of the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee, invite the public to attend one of the upcoming community meetings. Each meeting will include an overview of the draft Local Comprehensive Plan, followed by an open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

- **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the West Barnstable Community Center

- **Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at Liberty Hall
- **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the Osterville Library *\*Virtual participation will be provided for this meeting\**

The final town-wide community meeting will be held at the Barnstable High School within the Performing Arts Center. Live Portuguese and Spanish interpretation will be available. Additionally, in partnership with Barnstable Recreation, childcare services will be provided for children ages kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade including pizza and arts and crafts activities. Please email Kate Maldonado [kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us) to register for childcare.

- **Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the Barnstable High School Performing Arts Center (744 West Main Street in Hyannis)

#### **Town Manager Communications: HPP**

The Town of Barnstable is in the process of updating its [Housing Production Plan](#). A Housing Production Plan (HPP) establishes a strategic plan for production of affordable and mixed-income housing in a community that is based on a [comprehensive needs assessment](#). A draft Housing Production Plan has been published and can be accessed from the Town's website via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Current Projects". The Town recently hosted two public meetings to solicit feedback on this plan.

Public feedback is also encouraged by submitting comments through the Town's [Housing Production Plan webpage](#) or by emailing Jim Kupfer at [james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us) before Thursday **May 1, 2025**.

#### **Town Manager Communications: Digital Equity**

The Cape Cod Commission, in partnership with the Town of Barnstable, has published the **Barnstable Municipal Digital Equity Plan** for public review.

The Town of Barnstable Municipal Digital Equity Plan assesses the digital divide in Barnstable and identifies opportunities to advance digital equity. The plan considers topics such as the availability and affordability of internet service, device access, online safety, and digital skills required for meaningful digital engagement.

A copy of the draft plan, as well as an opportunity to submit public comments by **Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>**, are available at the link included in the full Town Manager's report. ([cccom.link/barnstable-de](https://cccom.link/barnstable-de))

### **Town Manager Communications: CDBG**

The **Town of Barnstable's Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program** is available for review on the Town's website. ([www.townofbarnstable.us/cdbg](http://www.townofbarnstable.us/cdbg)).

The plan can be accessed from the Town's website via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Programs".

The plan will serve as the planning and strategic documents for the Town's CDBG Program, which supports projects that provide housing, economic opportunities and a suitable living environment for low- and moderate-income persons. The range of eligible activities may include affordable housing, economic development, public facility improvements and public services.

Comments will be accepted through **Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>**.