

MHP Boards and Commissions Mini-Boost



The MHP **Boards and Commissions Mini-Boost** program is a technical assistance program for municipal boards and commissions to support the creation of affordable housing.

Program overview

MHP's Community Assistance team builds the capacity of municipalities to support policies, programs and development that increase housing diversity and open communities to people of all racial and economic backgrounds. Strengthening local boards is key to this effort.

Volunteer boards and commissions have a lot on their plates. Affordable housing can be complicated. Sometimes having outside support can help nudge efforts forward. That is where the mini-boost comes in.

This new, small-scale technical assistance program provides direct support to boards and commissions that are working to create affordable housing. Small grants (max. \$5,000 in technical assistance by a third-party consultant) can fund short-term problem solving and technical assistance projects that assist boards in capacity building.

Examples of eligible technical assistance

- Your affordable housing trust fund has limited funds and is trying to prioritize what to invest in right now. Get help to support this process.
- Requirements in the local housing development permitting process are conflicting across boards (e.g., ZBA, Board of Health, Conservation Commission), causing delays in building new housing. A TA provider could facilitate conversations across boards to create a more aligned permitting process.

- An affordable housing development has some neighbors worried and the Select Board thinks outside help facilitating public meetings would be useful.
- Planning board members would like help understanding different zoning tools that support multi-family and affordable housing development.

Application process

1. **Apply online.** Municipal boards or commissions, with support from the Select Board or chief executive, apply for a grant online.
2. **Rolling basis.** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and must be completed within 3-6 months.
3. **Tentative acceptance.** Once tentatively accepted, MHP will facilitate a conversation with the board and identified TA provider to ensure the project is achievable within the program parameters.
4. **Award issued.** MHP will issue a grant agreement to the municipality and directly pay TA providers.

[Apply here.](#)

Contact

Please contact **Shelly Goehring**, Senior Program Manager, at sgoehring@mhp.net or (857) 317-8525 for more information.

Note: We will not consider housing predevelopment work for this program.