



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



**REMARKS CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BIENNIUM BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

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Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of Housing. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you regarding Governor Lamont's recommended biennium budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

The Department of Housing (DOH) is committed to its mission, which is to ensure that everyone has access to quality housing opportunities and options throughout the State of Connecticut. The Department's many programs are aimed at addressing the needs of very low, low, and moderate-income individuals and families. The Department provides funding for programs to preserve our existing stock of affordable housing, as well as capital funding for new development opportunities. Governor Lamont's proposed budget for DOH demonstrates his commitment to and support of the agency's mission.

Governor Lamont's proposed budget includes funding for the Housing/Homeless Services line at about \$81.9 million in each year of the biennium. This level of funding will support the program's current projected expenditure levels with no impact to services. The agency has experienced a lapse in the account in recent years as a result of slower transitions in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) and Connecticut Housing Engagement and Supportive Services (CHESS) Programs. The Homeless Youth Program funding at \$2.6 million in FY 22 and \$2.9 million in FY 23 represents a \$351,975 increase from FY 21 in FY 22 and a \$641,975 increase in FY 23. This new funding is transferred from the Housing/Homeless Services line to provide a dedicated funding stream for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Grant state match. There are transfers to DMHAS in the amounts of \$352,500 in FY 22 and \$352,500 in FY 23 for wrap-around services for 47 individuals expected to receive HUD mainstream vouchers. The transfers to both the Homeless Youth line item and DMHAS will not impact the ability to support RAPs for those in need.

The Department of Housing supports the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Thank you for your time. Along with members of my staff, I am ready to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed biennium budget.