

# Rhode Island Housing Municipal Technical Assistance

## Horsley Witten Group Firm Description



Horsley Witten Group (HW) is a full-service planning and engineering firm incorporated in 1988 and consisting of a professional staff of over 70 planners, scientists, and engineers. Our staff brings decades of planning experience in the fields of land use, housing, climate change resiliency, infrastructure, economic development, open space preservation, community design, natural resource protection, low impact development, renewable energy, and more. [www.horsleywitten.com](http://www.horsleywitten.com)

### HW's Housing Practice

Our staff has a passion for housing, recognizing that the ability to have safe, comfortable, and affordable housing is fundamental to the health of households, neighborhoods, and entire regions. We bring a nuanced understanding of housing development in the context of environmental sustainability and social equity. There are “smarter” ways to expand housing choice in every community—respecting the carrying capacity of natural systems, designing “places” instead of “projects,” and elevating the needs of our most vulnerable populations. These ideas carry through all disciplines at HW including planning, scientific assessment, engineering, and community design.

### Services Offered

HW can play a role in all the potential services to be provided to Rhode Island municipalities through this technical assistance program.

**Needs analysis:** Assistance in identifying where more affordable housing could or should be built in the community. This could be areas of the community and/or specific properties.

**Updating land use and permitting requirements:** Assistance with updating or improving zoning and land use requirements and/or permitting processes to remove barriers to housing development.

**Developing model zoning ordinances:** Assistance in developing model zoning ordinances that increase density, promote a mix of housing types, and otherwise remove barriers to housing development.

**Infrastructure capacity assessment:** Assistance in evaluating the capacity of a municipality's infrastructure (such as water and sewer service) to serve existing and planned development and/or determine infrastructure needs to serve future residential development.

**Public engagement and education:** Share techniques and tools to respond to NIMBYism that is preventing development and engage the community in support of proposed affordable developments or proposed zoning or land use changes that would facilitate housing development.

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