

## **Municipal Technical Assistance Program: Description of Services Offered**

HousingWorks RI (HWRI) is a research and policy center that specializes in housing affordability in Rhode Island. Established in 2004 and integrated into Roger Williams University in 2014, HWRI has evolved from its earliest work of informing and bringing attention to state-level policy to working directly with state departments, municipalities, and public stakeholders for specific requests for technical assistance and research in an array of issues that impact housing's intersections with the Social Determinants of Health.

Under the state's new opportunity for municipalities to engage services for Technical Assistance, HWRI is able to support a variety of needs to augment municipalities' ability to engage in and plan for more housing affordability. These services include:

### **Needs analysis:**

- Using public and proprietary data sources and technical tools for analysis, HWRI can provide municipalities with estimates of both household need and locations that best serve those needs, including areas that connect to transit and jobs, promote walkability, and preserve open spaces.

### **Updating land use and permitting requirements:**

- Using a combination of HWRI's GIS analysis, database of municipal ordinances, best practices policy research, and historic building data, HWRI can identify barriers in a municipality's regulatory structure and inform updates to improve outcomes for housing development.

### **Developing model zoning ordinances:**

- Using HWRI's database of municipal ordinances, best practices policy research, and informed by work with researchers across the United States involved in the National Zoning Atlas, HWRI can provide an overview and comparison to similar geographies to help identify barriers in a municipality's regulatory structure and inform updates to improve outcomes for housing development.

### **Public engagement and education:**

- Using technical tools, such as Qualtrics for surveys, and drawing from an extensive body of messaging research and public engagement, HWRI can inform a municipality of those issues that most resonate with residents and how to foster a cooperative environment in which to promote housing development.

### *Resources and tools to be deployed:*

- US Census Bureau American Community Survey
- US Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample
- Warren Group Mortgage and Sales Data
- Warren Group Foreclosure Data
- Geographic Information Systems
- Qualtrics Survey Tool
- Tableau Analytics
- HWRI's Database of RI Municipal Ordinances
- HWRI's Compiled Analyses of Municipalities' Zoning, Tax Assessor data, Comprehensive Plans
- HWRI's Compiled Historic Data of Low- and Moderate Income Housing and Building Homes RI Funding

**Contact:** Brenda Clement, Director  
401.276.4815 • [bclement@rwu.edu](mailto:bclement@rwu.edu)

Annette Bourne, Research and Policy Director  
401.276.4819 • [abourne@rwu.edu](mailto:abourne@rwu.edu)