



# Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

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## NMCOG awarded MA Land Use and Planning Grant for Regional Housing Strategy

“At Home in Greater Lowell” to kick off this fall

A Multi-Disciplinary  
Regional Planning  
Agency Serving:

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LOWELL — The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs awarded the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) with a \$125,000 Land Use Planning Grant Program grant to support At Home in Greater Lowell: A Regional Housing Strategy. The funding will support NMCOG’s planning efforts to respond to the regional housing shortage and will support the nine communities in Greater Lowell in advancing locally specific policies to increase housing choice.

“Throughout our work with our communities, housing continues to emerge as a top priority,” said Jennifer Raitt, NMCOG Executive Director. “We are excited to work across the NMCOG region to address the challenges of creating and preserving housing options and to provide the tools our communities need to improve equity and access to homes.”

At Home in Greater Lowell includes three elements:

- Rigorous data collection, benchmarking, and strategy creation to achieve regional goals.
- Innovative storytelling through media, videos, and/or events that share narratives about the experiences of Greater Lowell residents in finding, maintaining, and staying in housing, in their own words when possible, which will provide personal insights into collected data.
- Toolkits for community staff, boards, and committees to use to enact recommended strategies and expand public education around housing issues.

The strategy will be developed by NMCOG supported by an advisory committee composed of leaders and residents from throughout Greater Lowell and advised by consultants specializing in understanding housing trends and targets. A public kickoff of the project is anticipated in December.

[Sign up for the At Home in Greater Lowell distribution list](#) to stay informed about this planning process. For more information about At Home in Greater Lowell, contact Kelly Lynema, NMCOG Deputy Director, at [klynema@nmcog.org](mailto:klynema@nmcog.org) or 978-454-8021x116.

### About NMCOG

NMCOG is one of thirteen regional planning agencies within Massachusetts. Formed under Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws, NMCOG serves the municipalities of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford to support and enhance a wide range of planning objectives related to land use, environmental protection, climate resiliency, economic development, housing, municipal service delivery, and transportation. NMCOG’s professional staff assist member communities in designing, facilitating, and implementing programs and planning initiatives which further the interests of the overall region.