



# OPEN COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

## Two Bills to Improve Government Transparency in Housing

### *Transparency for Payment Standards in Housing Voucher Programs & Transparency for Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development*

#### *Summary*

The information on how much government housing vouchers are worth and how towns are planning to address conservation and development should be easily available to the public. These proposals require that this information be published online in a clear and accessible way.

#### **Housing Voucher Payment Standards**

Government housing vouchers are a critical tool to help families avoid homelessness and gain housing stability. Because the 45 housing authorities that administer federal housing vouchers in Connecticut all have the discretion to set the maximum apartment rent for which a voucher may be used, this information is critically important for voucher holders searching for housing in the private market. This information is not available on one central website and is frequently hard to find even on individual housing authority websites. Without this information it is very difficult for voucher holders to know where they might be able to live outside of the town where their voucher was issued.

This proposal requires that all housing authorities administering a housing voucher program post the maximum allowable rent for units of various bedroom sizes in prominent locations on their websites and submit their maximum allowable rents to [United Way 211](#) for posting on its website, giving voucher holders a single location to find the maximum allowable rents throughout the state.

#### **Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development**

Every ten years each municipality is required to submit a town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) outlining its plans for environmental conservation and growth. Alternatively, a town may submit a letter explaining why it has not submitted such a plan. These plans include information about how towns will address affordable housing needs as well as policies and goals in alignment with the State Plan of Conservation and Development. Electronic versions of these important documents are not collected in one place that is accessible to the public and can be difficult to locate.

This proposal requires that within 30 days of the submission of a municipal Plan of Conservation and Development or letter explaining why such plan has not been amended in a timely fashion to the Office of Policy and Management, OPM shall post the plan or the letter on its website.