

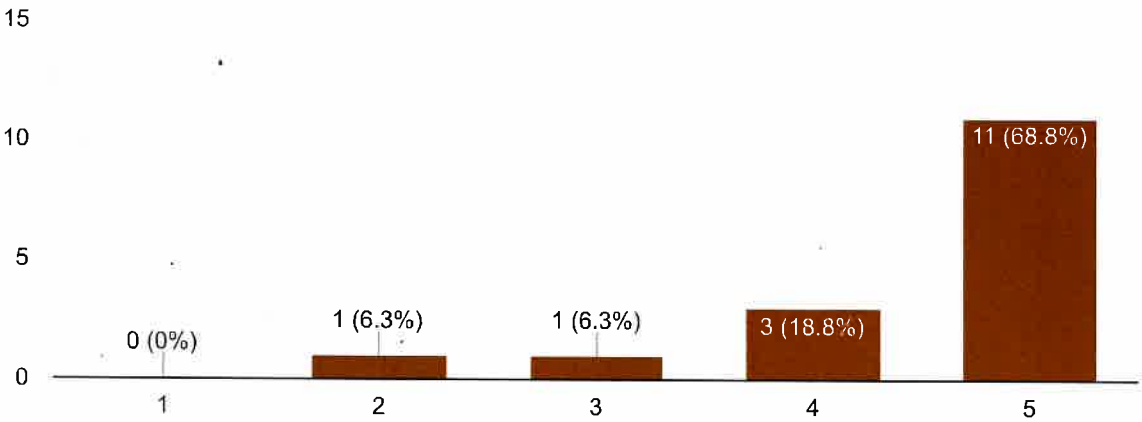
NHCOG Strategic Planning for the Region

16 responses

SECTION ONE - REGIONAL RESOURCE SHARING AND ADMINISTRATION

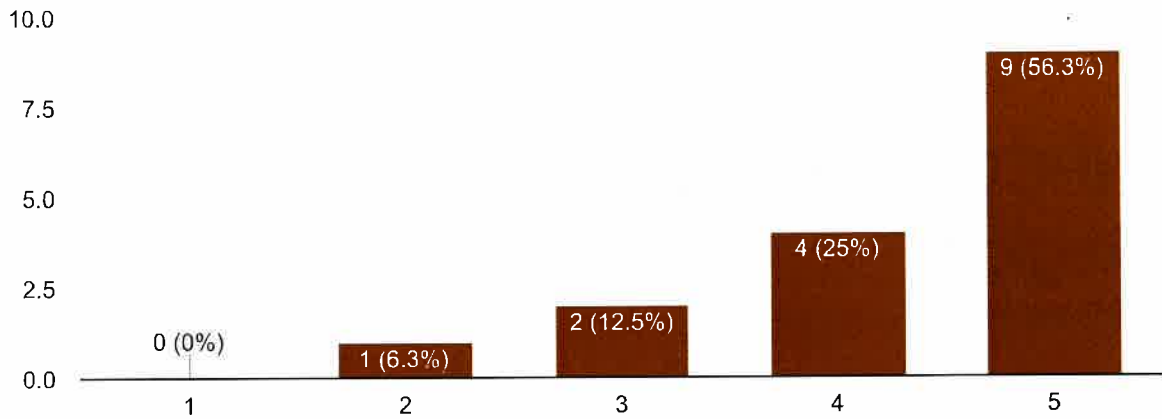
How valuable to you is the NHCOG facilitation of monthly council meetings that feature speakers and program updates?

16 responses



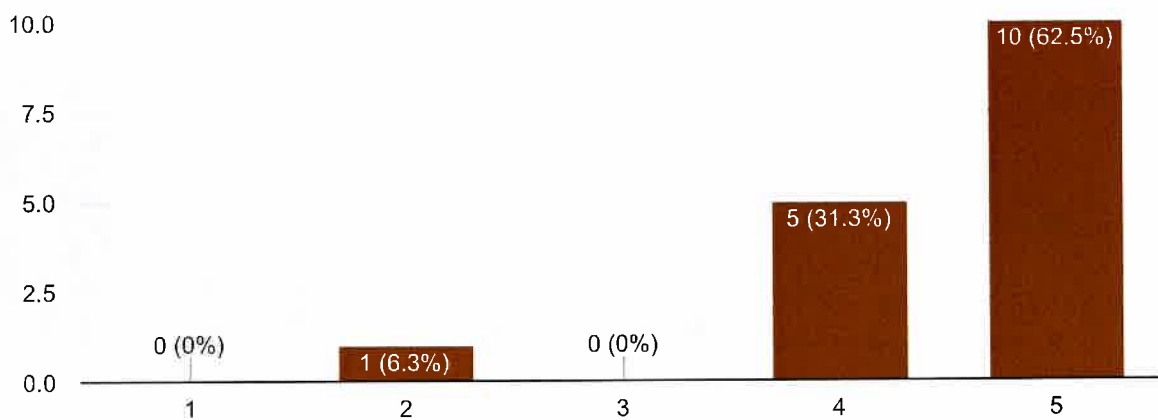
How valuable is the facilitation of legislative updates, development of regional policy positions, and provision of member updates on recent legislative sessions?

16 responses



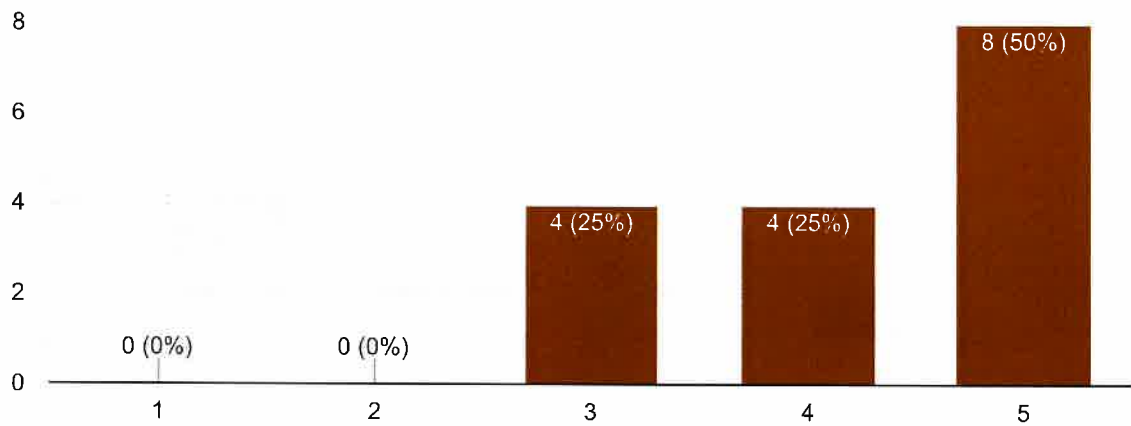
How important is the oversight of the Public Works Equipment Collaborative and regional purchase of Public Works equipment and supplies (eg salt, blades, crack sealing, hot patch, etc)

16 responses



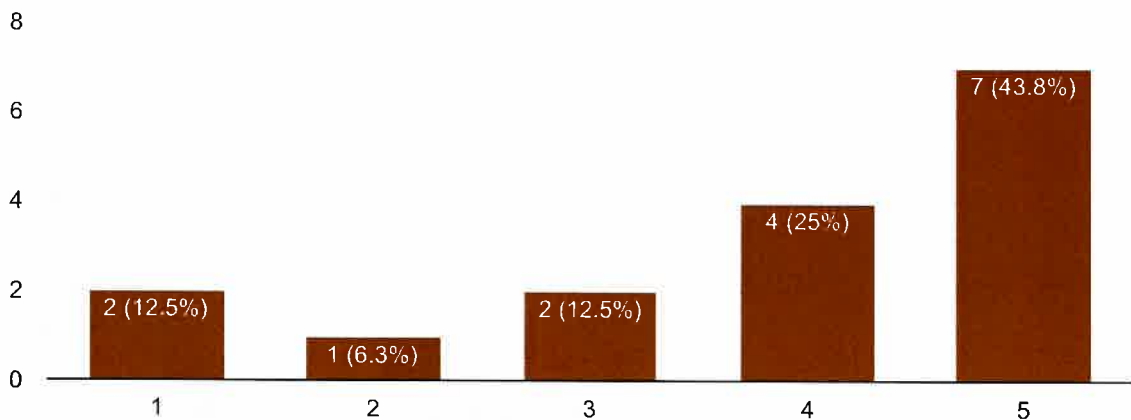
The value of assistance with Regional Engineering Services which entails a possible rate reduction through the bidding process

16 responses



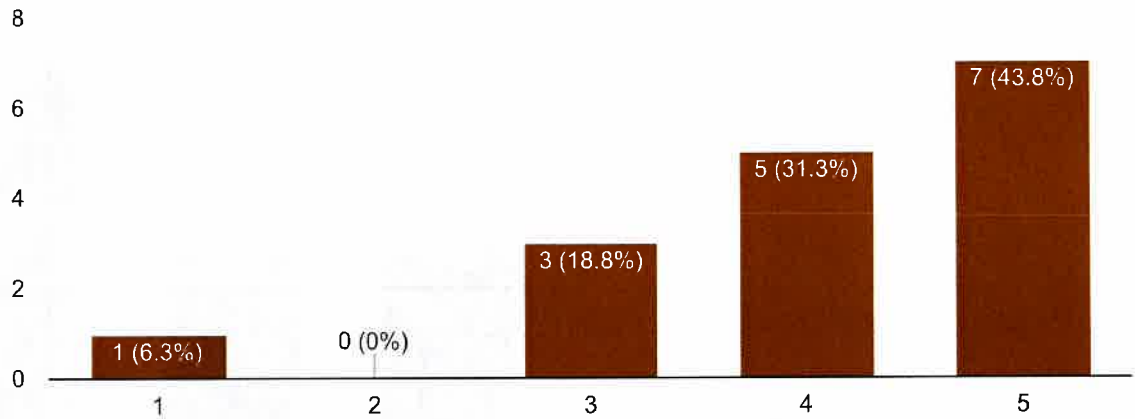
The coordination of meetings of the Northwest Hills Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC)

16 responses



Serving as the lead on Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

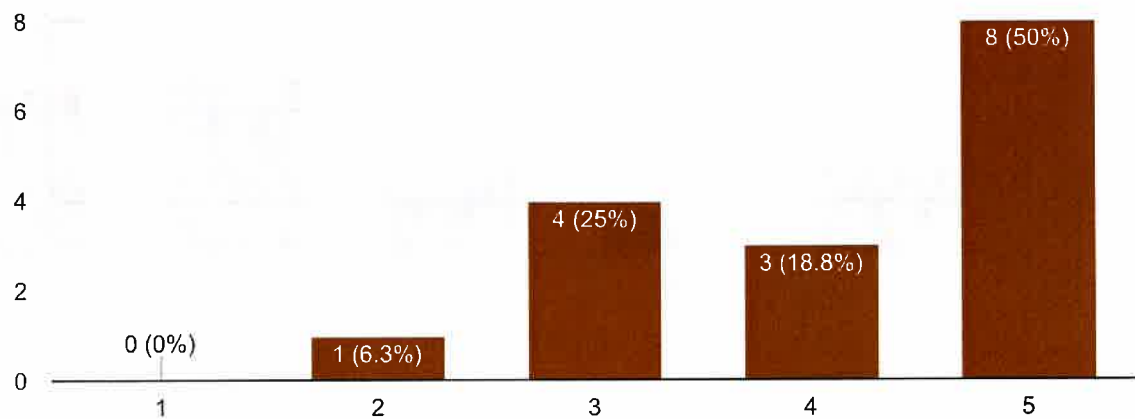
16 responses



SECTION TWO - TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES

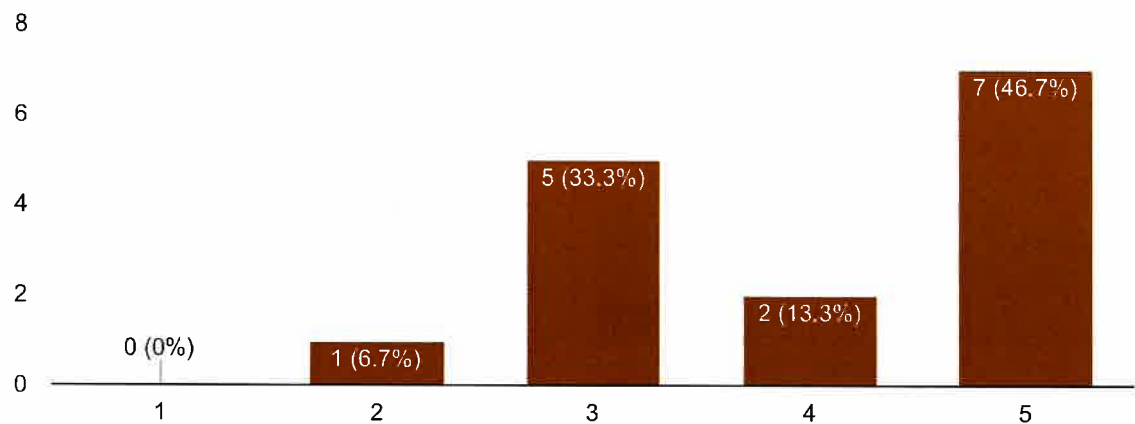
Oversight, and Development of, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Safety Plan?

16 responses



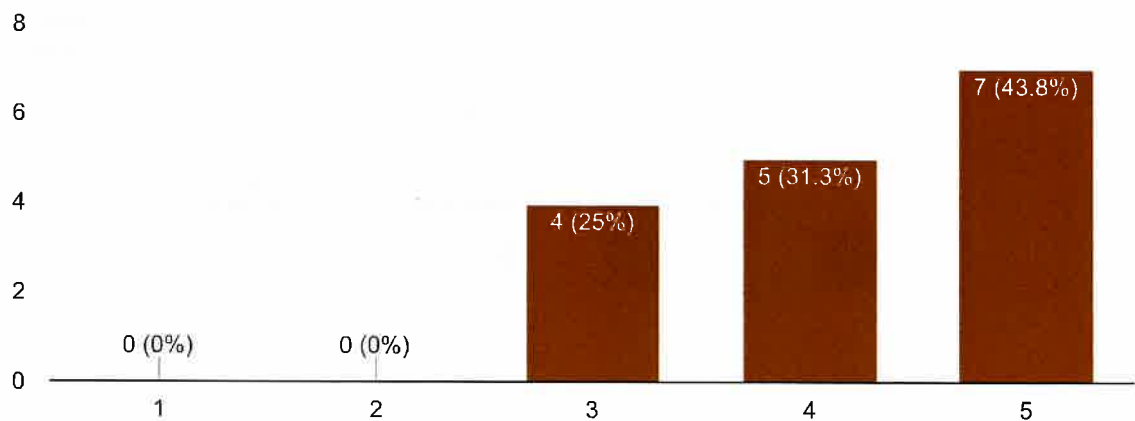
Coordination and Value of NHCOG's Rural Independent Transportation System (RITS) Program?

15 responses



Assistance and Administration of the LOTCIP and Rural Collector Programs?

16 responses

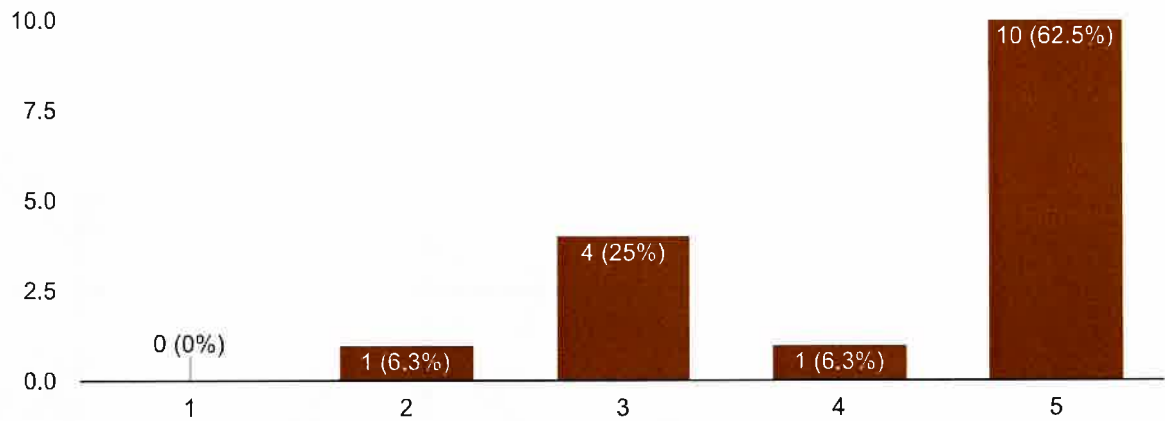


SECTION THREE - COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



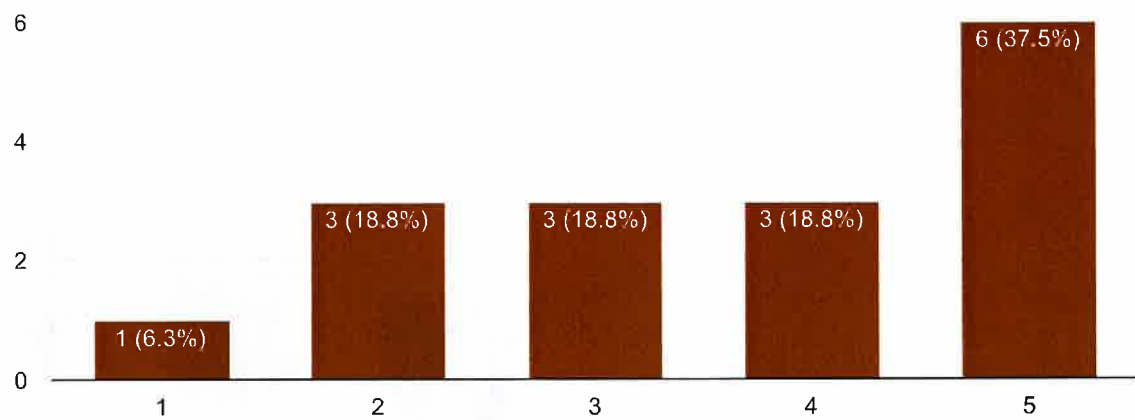
Rural Broadband Initiative

16 responses



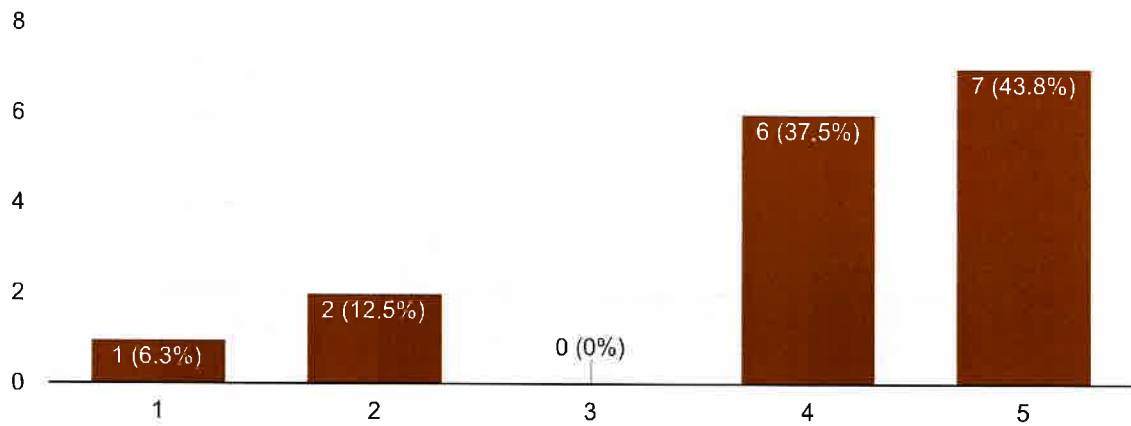
Regional Food Hub

16 responses



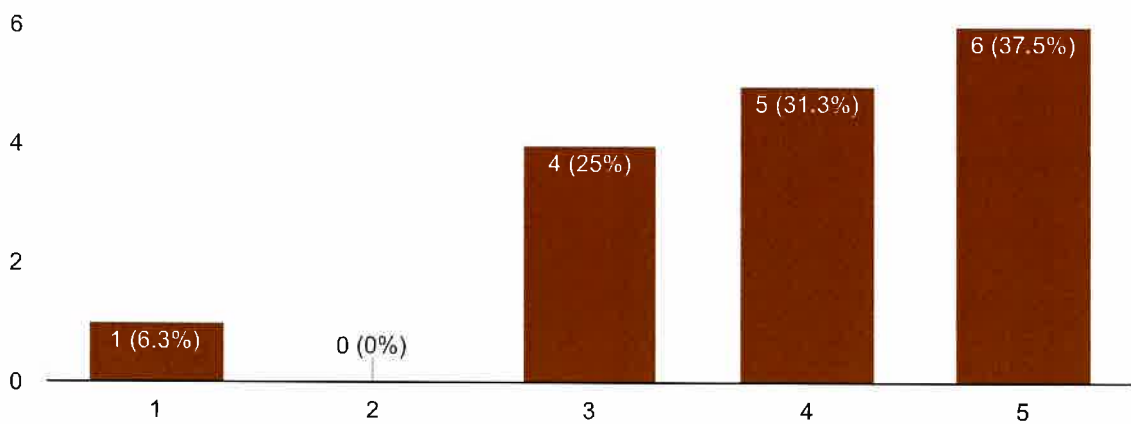
Discover Litchfield Hills Website and other tourism/marketing efforts

16 responses



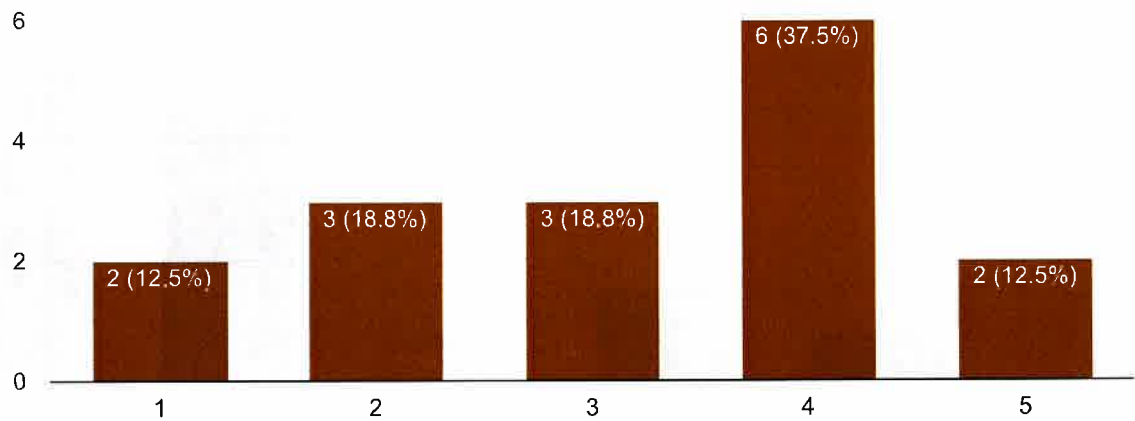
Annual Economic Development Forum

16 responses



Civic Lift

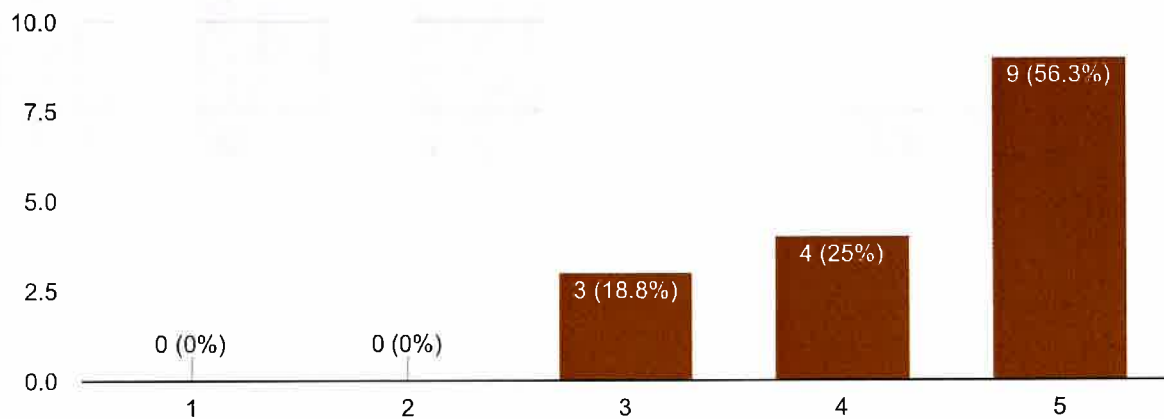
16 responses



SECTION 4 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT "DEMHS REGION 5"

Serve as the Fiduciary/Oversight Agent/Grant Applicant and Administrator for DEMHS Region 5 (Rather than NVCOG or WESTCOG in Region 5)

16 responses

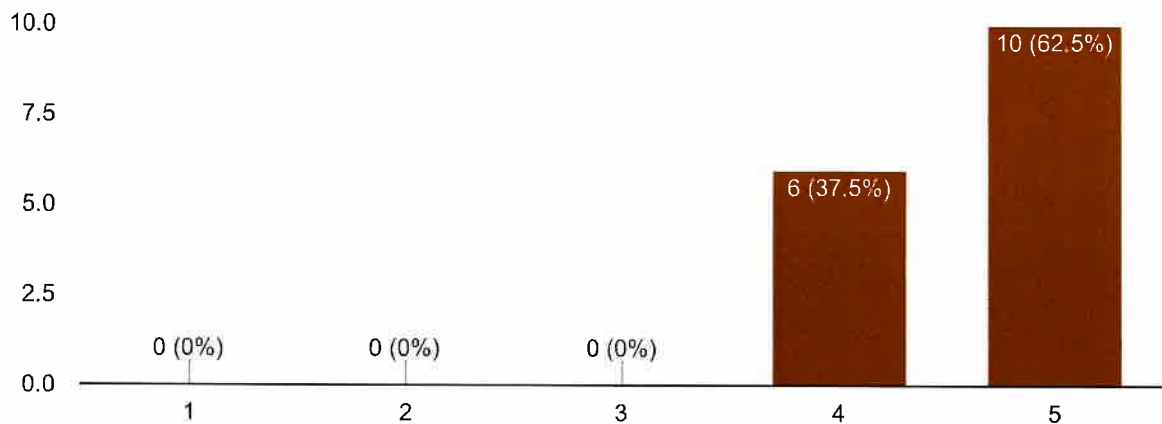


SECTION 5 - LAND USE PLANNING AND OTHER LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



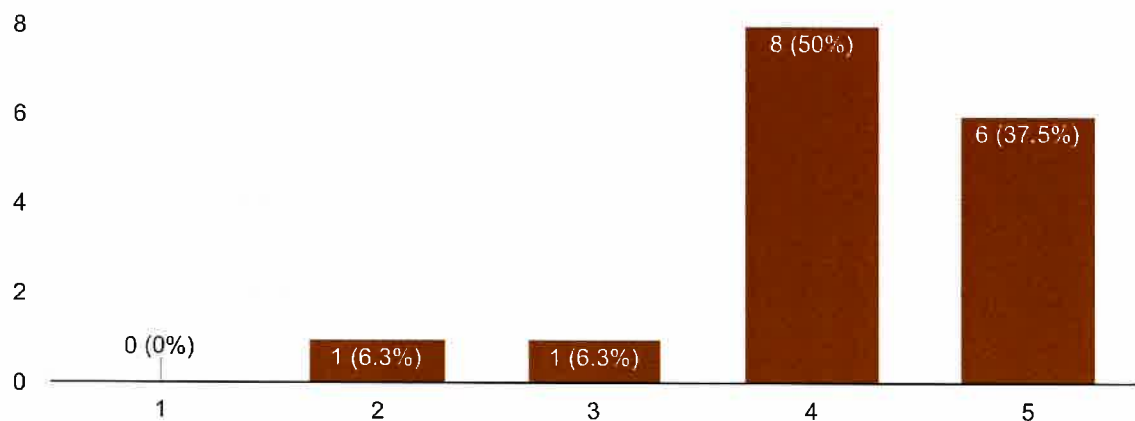
Assist member-towns with guidance on planning documents, technical questions, and statutory requirements

16 responses



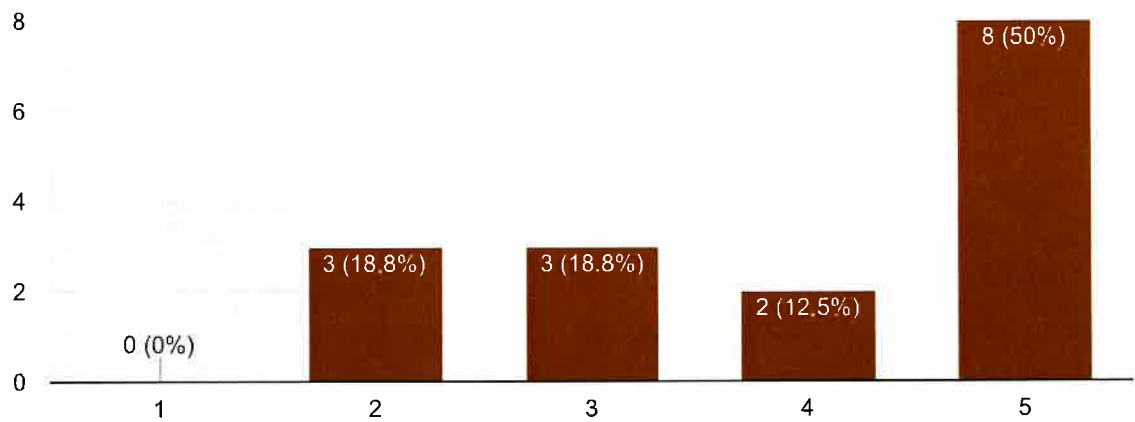
Host Fifth-Thursday Forums to provide local land-use staff and board members with training and informative sessions

16 responses



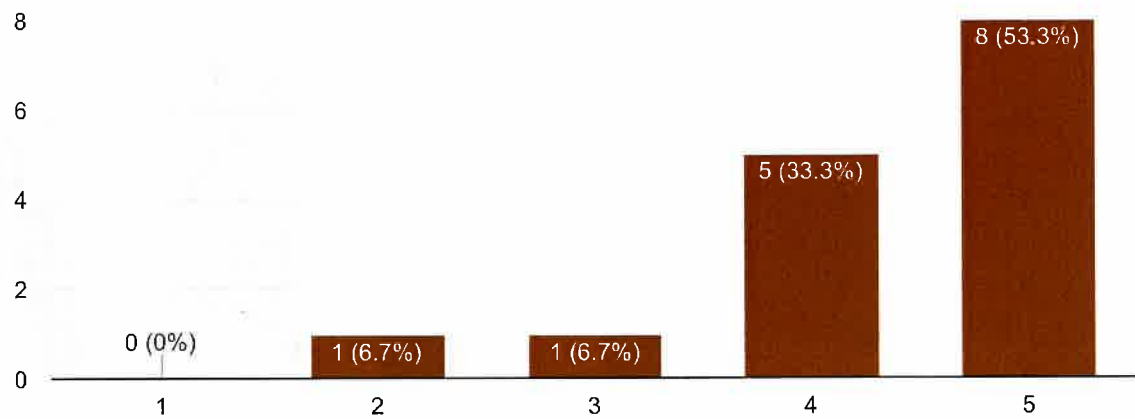
Provide local conservation commissions, land trusts, and Housatonic River Commission with on-going support

16 responses



Provide member-towns with technical mapping assistance "GIS" and data collection

15 responses

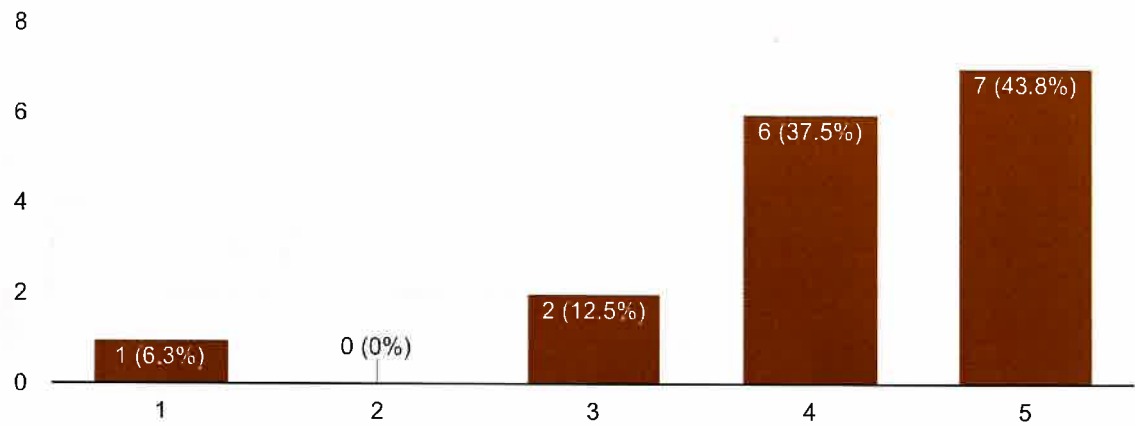


SECTION 6 - HEALTH, HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES



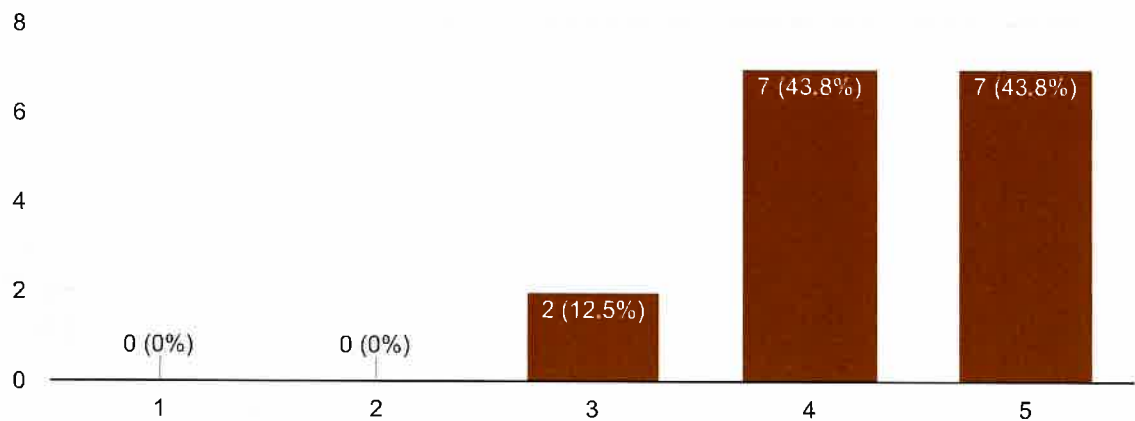
Administration and fiscal oversight of Prescription Assistance, Fuel Bank, Neighbor to Neighbor Programs

16 responses



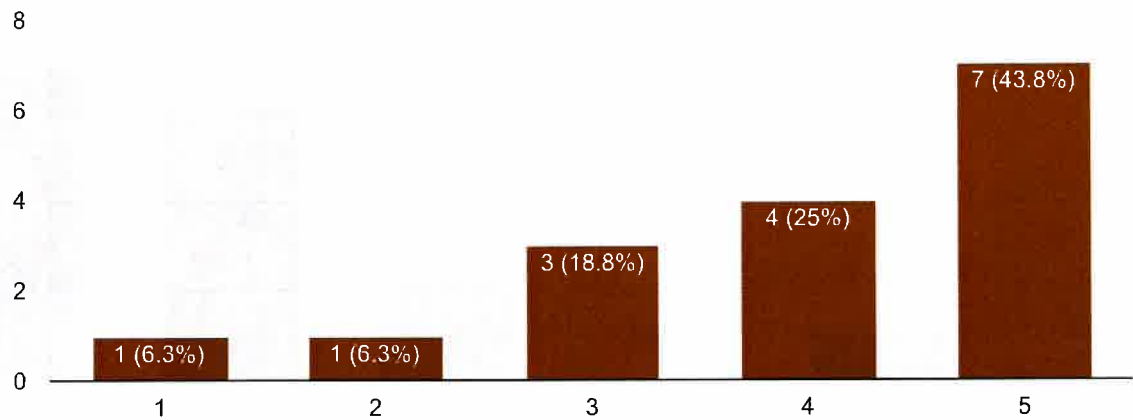
The Value of Regional/Affordable Housing Planning and Assistance

16 responses



Regional Health Services Coordinator - NEW Initiative in the Region and will be Ongoing for Approximately the Next Year

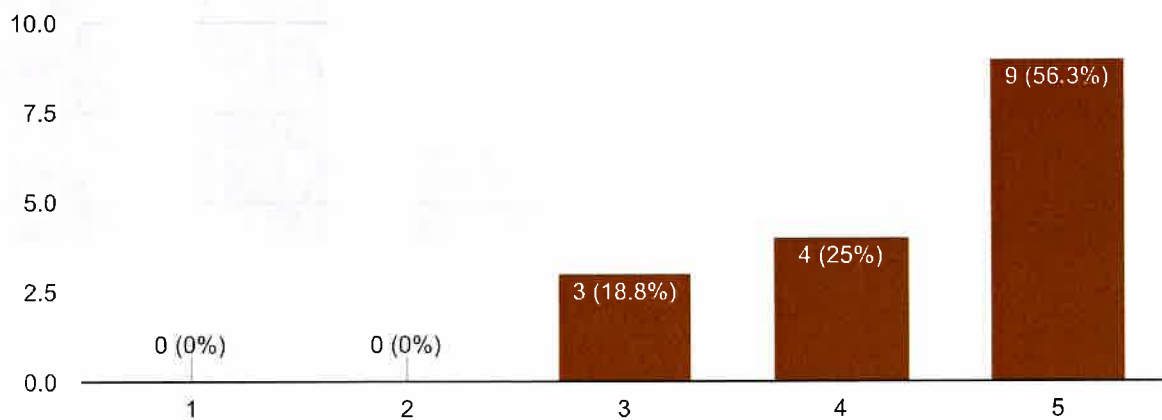
16 responses



Future Service Level Considerations

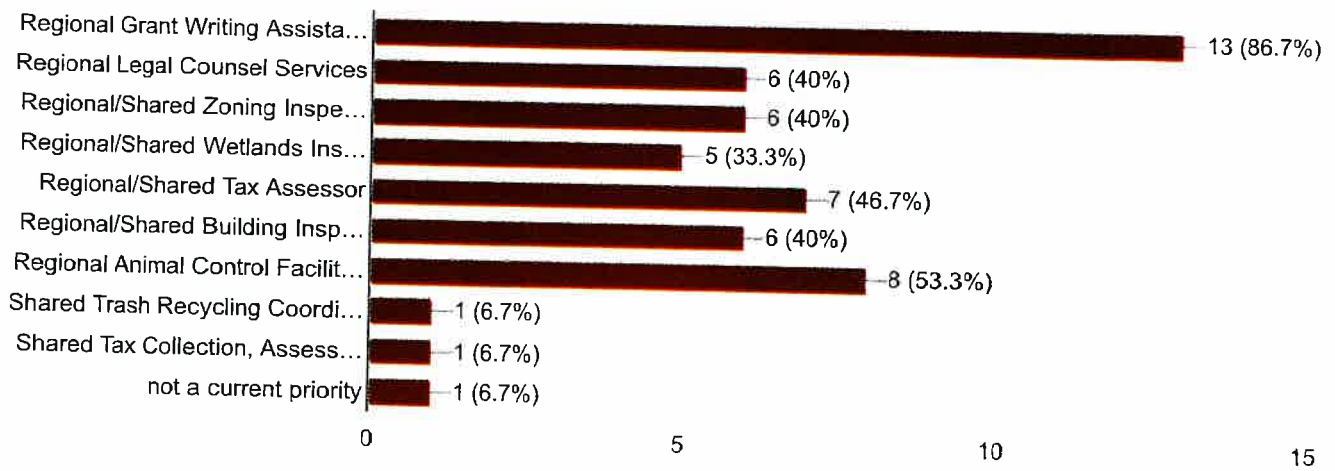
In accordance with new state requirements, provide Land-use Commissioner/Staff Training for member-towns

16 responses



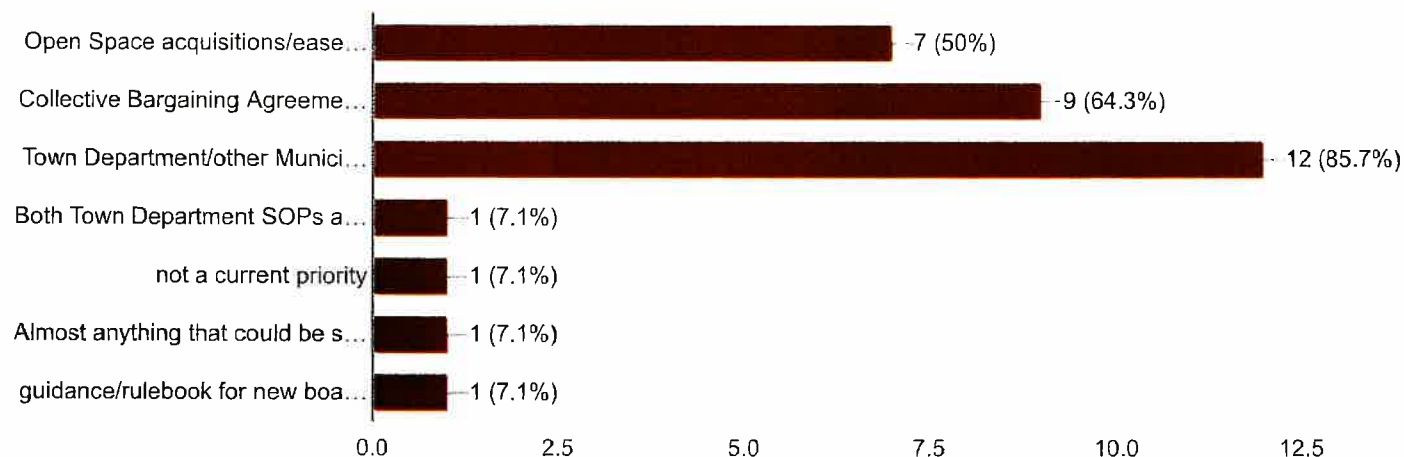
Regionally Coordinated/COG Hosted Services

15 responses



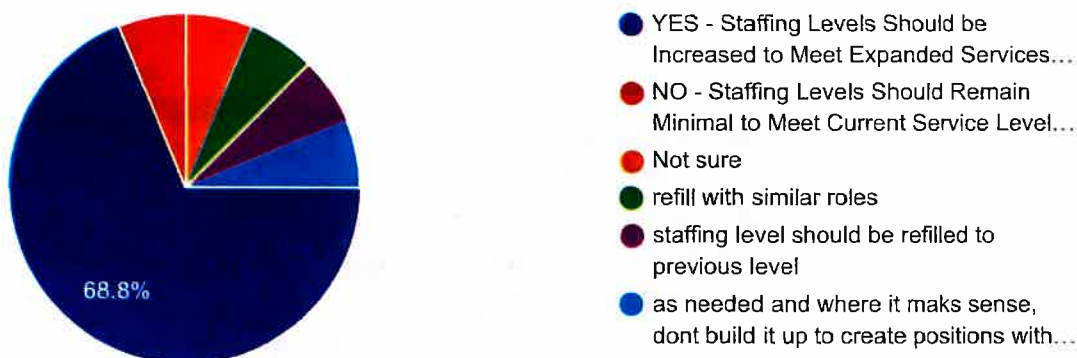
What policy documents/templates could the NHCOG provide in an 'information bank' that would be considered useful?

14 responses



Do you Support Additional NHCOG Staffing to Enhance Service Delivery/Meet Future Needs in the Region?

16 responses



Please Add Any Other Comments that you Feel are Important/Valuable to this Survey and/or Valuable for Planning and Coordination of Existing or Future COG Services and Associated Staffing Levels
THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

8 responses

- 1) I think also having a Regional Trash/ Recycling Coordinator is important so that each town can benefit from a shared source of education, data collection, ideas and initiatives. Its cost prohibitive for each town to hire its own RTC. Especially with the amount of small towns that are in the NHCOG. Thank you!!
- 2) We need more regionalization! I'm happy to go to bat for increased COG contributions if you can show us how it will help us save money elsewhere in our budget (we don't need to hire a local building official if we can have a shared official shared with us by the COG, etc)
- 3) Some of our COG meetings have gotten too long because we have veered from our core mission. I appreciate the technical services offered by COG staff, but the lengthy agendas with speakers looking for funding should be removed (so that we can get back to business). Those folks can appeal to towns directly. Also...newer Selectmen seeking "survey" information should respond directly to the COG (and not reply all) so that our emails aren't jammed with hundreds of emails. Then staff can distribute (and store) a single informational document. COG Salary survey (important) has yet to be distributed!
- 4) i think there should be a planner to work on economic dev/ housing and another to help with local land use Boards.
- 5) I personally believe the cog has lost its way and is involved in things that do not serve the 21 towns but a few special interests instead. The direction should not be determined by an employee's passion.
- 6) Having the COG as such a wealth of information and partner in so many spheres of muni government has most certainly benefited every member town.
- 7) our biggest concern right now for the town is finding a qualified Assessor to fill a part time position.
- 8) The GIS specialist is critical - we tell the stories of our small rural towns through maps!



CENTER FOR HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LITCHFIELD COUNTY

Center for Housing Opportunity, Litchfield County

facilitates a coordinated, regional response to address housing affordability in Litchfield County, aligning and delivering critical resources, data, and technical assistance to municipalities and non-profit housing organizations including:

- ▶ Community engagement, education, and advocacy
- ▶ Capacity building support
- ▶ Housing plan implementation assistance
- ▶ Collective impact approach

GET INVOLVED

cthousingopportunity.org

has resources, data, and research tools.

Questions? Contact Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, Director Jocelyn Ayer:
jocelyn@thehousingcollective.org

**Follow us for the
latest updates.**



PARTNERS



Regional Plan Association (RPA)

RPA is an independent non-profit civic organization that develops and promotes ideas to improve the economic health, environmental resiliency, and quality of life of the New York metropolitan area. RPA conducts research on the environment, land use, and good governance, and advises cities, communities, and public agencies.



The Housing Collective

The Housing Collective is a CT-based nonprofit agency that applies a Collective Impact framework to deliver solutions to the most pressing housing problems. Focused on ending homelessness and creating equitable housing opportunities for all, the Housing Collective provides the leadership and support that enables productive, regional collaboration across organizations and sectors and drives systems change.



Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC)

PSC is a statewide nonprofit policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness, expanding affordable housing, and building strong communities in Connecticut. PSC creates and promotes proven solutions for homelessness, supportive and affordable housing, and community development and connects key state and federal policymakers, local officials, corporate leaders and non-for-profit organizations.



Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation strengthens communities through philanthropy and leadership. Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation responds to regional priority issues while addressing their root causes, expanding the role of philanthropy as a force for change.



Northwest CT Community Foundation

Northwest CT Community Foundation seeks to enrich the quality of life for residents of Northwest Connecticut by inspiring local philanthropy, convening stakeholders in community welfare, strengthening the regional nonprofits network and fostering collaborative funding partnerships.



Foundation for Community Health (FCH)

Serving the greater Harlem Valley of New York and the northern Litchfield Hills of Connecticut, FCH works to create the conditions required for health, well-being, and equity. To accomplish their mission, FCH makes grants, conducts research, provides technical assistance, and supports collaboration and advocacy.



Regional Legislative Priorities – 2022 Session

We continue to plead with the state to do no harm. The 21-member towns of the NHCOCG are still struggling to recover from many challenging issues and un-met needs in the wake of COVID-19. Many of the costs incurred by our towns are not being covered by federal and state programs, and municipal revenues continue to decline or are limited. Support from our area legislators is more critical than ever as we seek to be resilient and bounce back from this unprecedented pandemic. Our residents continue to struggle day in and day out to survive during this inflation, job insecurity and financial instability. Your assistance is critical in supporting the following legislative priorities of the member towns of the NHCOCG.

1) Develop a strategic plan and legislation to effectively address the municipal solid waste crisis in Connecticut.

- Creation of an implementable strategic plan and state financial support is critical to addressing the financial and technological issues faced by MIRA so that it can become a reliable and sustainable resource for our municipalities over the long term.

2) Partner with our communities to control taxes and make Connecticut affordable.

- Use state surplus funds to address state debt and removing the burden from small towns and businesses such as i.e, teacher pensions, etc.
- Sponsor legislation to provide for virtual or hybrid town meetings over the long-term in cooperation with Connecticut's Freedom of Information Commission.
- Support continued mandate relief measures. In particular, enact a higher prevailing wage threshold for renovation projects similar to what was done for new construction.
- Sponsor legislation that would allow towns, at local option, to adopt bi-annual budgets to enable longer-term budgeting and cost savings in municipalities.
- Sponsor legislation that would enable towns in a regional school district to adopt a 3-5 year rolling average for municipal assessments to minimize the fiscal impact in any one

given year. Provide enabling legislation for the establishment of a Board of Finance for Regional Schools to better monitor and control spending.

3) Support voluntary regionalization and shared services.

- The member towns of the NHCOG have long supported voluntary regionalism and have already regionalized many municipal facilities (schools, health districts, emergency dispatch) and services (cooperative purchasing, regional equipment sharing). Any new proposals should be presented as well-researched options and not state mandates.
- Support maintenance of funding for COGs and the Regional Performance Incentive Program to enable planning and implementation of additional shared services.

4) Support implementation of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and other regional plans.

- Connecting every home and business to fiber-optic broadband is essential to long-term economic progress in our region and a core strategy in our CEDS Plan. We need state and federal support to help this initiative become a reality.
- Pass legislation requiring PURA to adopt One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) regulations. OTMR would streamline the process of attaching new fiber-optic wire to utility poles saving hundreds of dollars per pole and more than a year of time for municipalities trying to address their high speed broadband needs.
- Support the state, regional and local efforts now underway to address the un-met needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

* * * * *