



TOWN OF GRANBY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2025

TO: The Granby Board of Selectman

FROM: Abby Kenyon, Director of Community Development

REGARDING: Consideration of Resolution and Compliance Statement and Policies Supporting Fair Housing

As a recipient of Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant funding, it is a Connecticut Department of Housing Program recipient requirement that Granby actively evidence its commitment to and take specific actions to support the principles and practices of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

As background information, the town received its first Small Cities Funding Grant in 1990 and has been participating ever since. April is designated as Fair Housing Month and as such, is an ideal time for the Town of Granby to reaffirm its commitment to Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The Community Development Department will be undertaking a variety of measures to demonstrate such commitment and asks that the Board of Selectmen adopt the following Resolution, Statements, and Policies to further demonstrate the town's overall commitment to Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

In an effort to reaffirm the town's commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity, I recommend that the Board of Selectmen re-adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution, Fair Housing Policy Statement, Compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Municipal Grievance Procedure, and ADA Notice, as shown below:

Fair Housing Resolution

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Granby is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, That the Town of Granby hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Granby or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Granby and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Fair Housing Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Town of Granby to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town of Granby must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S., and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.

The Town of Granby or any of sub-recipient of the Town of Granby will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town of Granby.

The Municipality's Department of Community Development is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy. The Director of Community Development, Abigail St. Peter Kenyon, may be reached at (860) 844-5319 or akenyon@granby-ct.gov.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by the Town of Granby may be filed with the Department of Community Development. The municipality's Grievance Procedure will be utilized in these cases.

Complaints may also be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 541-3403 within 180 days of the alleged violation by submitting a notarized complaint and/or the Boston Regional Office of FHEO, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Room 321, Boston, MA 02222-1092, Telephone (617) 994-8300 or 1-800-827-5005, TTY (617) 565-5453. A complaint may be filed with HUD within one year after an alleged violation. Additionally, an individual may file suit, at his/her expense, in Federal District Court or State Court within two years of an alleged violation. If the individual cannot afford an attorney, the Court may appoint one. A suit can be brought even after filing a complaint, if the complaining party has not signed a conciliation agreement and an Administrative Law Judge has not started a hearing. A court may award actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees and costs.

A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all Town of Granby employees and they are expected to fully comply with it. In addition, a copy will be posted throughout the Town of Granby.

Date

Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager

THIS STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON AUDIO TAPE by contacting Abigail St. Peter Kenyon, 15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035, (860) 844-5319.

Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Town of Granby does not discriminate in the provision of services, the administration of its programs, or contractual agreements. The Town of Granby seeks to fully carry out its responsibilities under the Title VI Regulations.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI provides that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs covered by the Regulations.

This policy is effectuated through the methods of administration outlined in the Town of Granby Fair Housing Plan and is fully implemented to ensure compliance by the Town of Granby as the recipient, and by sub- recipients. The cooperation of all personnel is required.

Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager

Date

Affirmative Action Policy Statement

As Town Manager of the Town of Granby, I recognize the need for Affirmative Action and I pledge my commitment to undertake positive actions to overcome the present effects of past practices or barriers to equal employment opportunity and to achieve the full and fair participation of minorities, women, people with disabilities, older persons, and all other protected groups found to be underutilized in the Town of Granby's work force or affected by policies having an adverse impact. In the spirit of Executive Order 11, signed by Governor Ella Grasso November 21, 1975, and Executive Order 9, signed by Governor William A. O'Neill on January 3, 1984, I further state that this Town of Granby will comply with the anti-discrimination provisions of the state and federal laws and regulations listed at the end of this section.

I recognize the hiring difficulties experienced by minorities, people with disabilities and by many older persons and, where appropriate, I have set goals to overcome the present effects of past discrimination, if any, to achieve the full and fair utilization of such persons in the work force. I further pledge that the Town of Granby will affirmatively provide services and programs in a fair and impartial manner.

Where adverse impact is identified, the Town of Granby will: (1) review its personnel policies and procedures to ensure that barriers, which unnecessarily exclude protected classes and practices, which have an illegal discriminatory impact, are identified and eliminated; (2) explore alternative approaches to employ minorities and members of protected classes; (3) administer all terms, conditions, privileges and benefits of the employment process in an equitable manner; and (4) establish procedures for the extra effort that may be necessary to ensure that the recruitment and hiring of protected group members reflect their availability in the job market.

It is the policy of the Town of Granby to provide equal employment opportunities without consideration of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, national origin, genetic information, past/present history of mental disability, ancestry, mental retardation, learning or physical disabilities including, but not limited to, blindness, sexual orientation, political belief or criminal record, unless the provisions of Section 46a-60(b), 46a-80(b) and 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there is a bonafide occupational qualification excluding persons in one of the above protected groups. This policy applies to all aspects of the employer/employee relationship including, but not limited to, recruitment, hiring, referrals, classifying, advertising, training, upgrading, promotion, benefits, compensation, discipline, layoff and terminations.

The Town of Granby will implement, monitor and enforce this Affirmative Action Policy Statement in conjunction with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations and executive orders listed below: 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments of the United States Constitution, Civil Rights Act of 1866, 1870, 1871, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VI and VII of the 1964 United States Civil Rights Act, presidential Executive Orders 11246, amended by 11375, (Nondiscrimination under federal contracts), Act 1 Section 1 and 20 of the Connecticut Constitution, Governor Grasso's Executive Order Number 11, Governor O'Neill Executive Order Number 9, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Law (46a-63-64). Discrimination against Criminal Offenders (46a-80). Connecticut General Statutes, Connecticut Code of Fair Accommodations Law (46-63-64), definition of Blind (46a-51 (1), definition of Physically Disabled (46a-51 (15), definition of Mentally Retarded (46a-51 (13), cooperation with the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities (46a-77), Sexual Harassment (46-60-(a) Connecticut Credit Discrimination Law (360436 through 439), Title I of the State and the Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992.

This policy statement will be given annually to all Town of Granby employees and will also be posted throughout the Town of Granby. I also expect each supplier, union, consultant and other entity (s) with which we do business to comply with all applicable State and Federal Equal Opportunity laws and regulations. The Town of Granby will not knowingly do business with any entity debarred from participation in any federal or state program or found to be in violation of any state or federal anti-discrimination law.

I have assigned the responsibility to achieve the successful implementation of our goals and objectives to Abigail St. Peter Kenyon, Director of Community Development, (860) 844-5319, akenyon@granby-ct.gov.

Date

Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager

THIS STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON AUDIO TAPE FROM THE ADA-504 COORDINATOR BY CALLING (860) 844-5318.

Municipal Grievance Procedure

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs or benefits by the Town of Granby.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the allege violation to:

Joel Skilton
(860) 844-5318
15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Joel Skilton will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting Joel Skilton will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille or audio tape. The response will explain the position of Town of Granby and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Joel Skilton does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complaint and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA coordinator within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the mayor or his or her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the mayor or his or her designee will meet the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting the mayor or his or her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Joel Skilton, appeals to the mayor or his or her designee, and responses from the ADA coordinator and mayor or his or her designee will be kept by Town of Granby for at least three years.

Date

Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager

ADA Notice

The Town of Granby does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Granby does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to Town of Granby's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Name: Joel Skilton

Title: ADA Compliance Coordinator

Office Address: 15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035

Phone Number: (860) 844-5318

Email Address: jskilton@granby-ct.gov

Days/Hours Available: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday' and 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM Friday.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Granby are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

This notice is available upon request in large print, on audio tape, and in Braille, from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Date

Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager

Proposed Motion: Move to re-adopt the Fair Housing Resolution, Fair Housing Policy Statement, Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Municipal Grievance Procedure and ADA Notice.