



**Senate Finance Committee**  
**Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)**  
**Budget Presentation**  
**2026-2027 Biennium**

*April 15, 2025*

**Mission**

Established by the state legislature in 2000, LCHIP is a matching grants program that supports community-based public-private partnerships seeking to voluntarily conserve and preserve the state’s most significant natural, cultural, and historic resources.

**Funding**

From 2000-2008, LCHIP received funded through general fund appropriations, with annual appropriations ranging from \$2-6 million. Recognizing the need for a dedicated funding source, in 2008, the legislature established a \$25 surcharge to be assessed when certain documents are recorded at the state’s Registries of Deeds. The “LCHIP Surcharge” has proven to be a reliable funding source tied to statewide growth and development trends, and generating an average of \$4 million per year for grant making. **LCHIP awards only surcharge revenue that has accrued to the Trust Fund and does not access general funds if revenue falls below budget.**

LCHIP employes 4 full-time, 2 part-time, and 1 seasonal employee. Administrative expenses (FY25 \$600k) are funded in roughly equal parts through contributions from the Moose Plate program, interest earnings, and administrative fees charged to the Trust Fund and Community Conservation Endowment fund in accordance with the respective statutes. **No general funds are used to support LCHIP’s administrative expenses.**

**LCHIP TRUST FUND**

<u>LCHIP Trust Fund</u>	\$ 7,973,049
Less Committed Funds (68 grants + CCE)	<u>\$-6,495,775</u>
Uncommitted Fund Balance	\$ 1,477,274
Anticipated Revenue through October, 2025	<u>\$ 1,575,000</u>
Grant Funds Available, Nov. 2025 (forecast)	\$ 3,052,274

**ANNUAL GRANT EXPENDITURES**

*5-year average \$5.15 million*

Fiscal Year	Actuals	Budget
FY 2024	\$4,738,680	\$5,000,000
FY 2023	\$8,908,007	\$5,000,000
FY 2022	\$2,955,039	\$5,000,000
FY 2021	\$4,002,785	\$5,000,000

## PROGRAM IMPACT 2001 – 2024

\$65 million invested (615 grants) in 204 NH communities

246,000 acres conserved on 267 properties

184 historic buildings rehabilitated

**LCHIP** Land & Community Heritage  
Investment Program



## KEY INITIATIVES

### Reintegrating Historic Buildings Into Community Life

More than \$2.3m from a Community Development Block Grant, CDFA Investment Tax Credit, Historic Tax Credit Equity and Energy Incentives, and a \$400,000 LCHIP award will allow Belmont's Gale School to serve as a community center for the developmentally disabled and child-care center.



### Conserving Farmland for Agriculture

\$211,500 in federal funding, \$104,000 in town funding, and \$32,000 in private donations matched LCHIP's \$85,000 to conserve 124 acres of high-quality farmland in Boscawen. Easements help farmers ensure farmland remains open for agricultural use.

### Preserving New Hampshire's Heritage

- Harrisville Historic District (upper left)
- View of Mt. Chocorua across Chocorua lakes (upper right)
- Whittier Covered Bridge, Ossipee (lower right)
- Canterbury Shaker Village (lower left)

