



C H A P A

**Citizens' Housing and
Planning Association**

President
Vincent O'Donnell

October 22, 2015

Vice Presidents
Jack Cooper
Charleen Regan

His Excellency Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 01233

Treasurer
Jeanne Pinado

Clerk
Naomi Sweitzer

**RE: Sign FY2016 Funding for the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust
Fund into Law**

Executive Director
Brenda Clement

Dear Governor Baker,

On behalf of Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), I am writing to request that you sign H.3673 into law to provide \$11.5 million in funding for the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF). Once signed, we urge your Administration to quickly hold a funding round for HPSTF projects that will help build affordable homes for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable households.

Funding HPSTF will help meet your Administration's priority of addressing family homelessness and providing more affordable housing for our most vulnerable households. HPSTF was created in 2014 to be a flexible tool for funding affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Commonwealth, particularly those most at-risk of becoming homeless. Since its creation, HPSTF has helped to build supportive housing for veterans, the elderly, and the disabled; supplemented HomeBASE to help more families avoid or exit homeless shelters; and provided funding for the Secure Jobs initiative to connect low-income families with job training services.

Any delay in the signing and implementation of HPSTF will result in significant delays in the development of supportive housing. For example, in Northampton, HAPHousing will be unable to move forward with a development that will provide 48 affordable apartments, including 16 apartments for extremely low income families at risk of homelessness, eight homes dedicated to homeless households, and five apartments for clients of the Department of Mental Health. Also, in Salem, the North Shore Community Development Corporation will be unable to begin construction on several projects dedicated for persons with special needs. In both cases, delaying funding for HPSTF would prevent any of these affordable housing opportunities from being built before 2017.

Thank you again for your commitment to addressing homelessness and for your support for affordable housing. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Brenda Clement
Executive Director

cc: Secretary Kristen Lepore, Executive Office of Administration and Finance
Secretary Jay Ash, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay, Department of Housing & Community Development
Linn Torto, Executive Director, Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness
Rep. Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, President of the Senate
Rep. Brian Dempsey, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Karen Spilka, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Rep. Kevin Honan, Chair, Joint Committee on Housing
Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, Chair, Joint Committee on Housing