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CHAPA Housing eBriefs

February 12, 2019



State Updates

CHAPA's 2019–2020 State Legislative Agenda

With the start of a new legislative session in January, [CHAPA filed our 2019–2020 state legislative agenda](#). Our priorities include legislation that will help increase access to affordable housing, protect fair housing, strengthen tenant protections to reduce displacement, and build stronger communities throughout the Commonwealth. We at CHAPA thank all of the sponsors and co-sponsors of these priorities! Bills will be assigned to committees before

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15, 2019

[CHAPA's Breakfast Forum: Doing Business in Times of Uncertainty, Part III: Working in Divided Government](#)

Last day to register!

March 11, 2019

[Save the Date: CHAPA's Housing Day at the State House](#)

hearings are scheduled later this year.

Governor Baker Releases FY2020 Budget Proposal

On January 23, [Governor Baker released his FY2020 Budget Proposal](#). The proposal provides current level funding for most of CHAPA's affordable housing, community development, and homelessness prevention budget priorities. The House Committee on Ways and Means will release its budget proposal in mid-April, followed by the House Budget debate.

Governor Baker Announces Youth Homelessness Grants

On January 31, [Governor Baker announced funding to help end youth homelessness](#) through grants to local providers and a new housing pilot to help homeless college students connect with education, employment, and housing supports and services. In total, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$3 million in funding to ten community partners throughout the state that will prevent or end homelessness of youth and young adults.

Get Involved with CHAPA's Municipal Engagement Initiative

CHAPA's [Municipal Engagement Initiative](#) works with local municipalities and community groups to conduct community-led public education efforts in support of housing production, with an emphasis on affordable housing. We are currently working in six communities and invite our members to get involved. If you live or work in Acton, Amherst, Arlington, Essex, Medford or Newton and would like to learn more about the MEI in your community, please contact [Dana LeWinter](#), Director of Municipal Engagement.



Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, and spoke at our Breakfast Forum: **The Future of Housing Search!**

View [pictures](#) from the event and let us know if you'd like to get involved in the affordable housing search technology effort!

BECOME A CHAPA MEMBER

DONATE TO CHAPA

JOIN A CHAPA GROUP OR COMMITTEE

JOIN CHAPA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Federal Updates

CHAPA Joins More than 1,000 Organizations Calling for Agreement to Avert Another Shutdown

CHAPA [signed onto a letter](#) by the National Low Income Housing Coalition urging Congress and President Trump to come to an agreement on a final FY2019 spending bill. The short-term continuing resolution signed into law a month ago is set to expire on Friday, February 15. If no deal is struck, the federal government, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), faces another shutdown.

U.S. Senate Banking Chair Releases Outline for GSE Reform

Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, released an [outline for reform of the housing finance system](#). The plan would convert the Government Sponsored Entities (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into private companies. This represents the first step in debate and negotiation over the future of GSE reform, a topic that has eluded Congressional leaders and advocates for over a decade.

Massachusetts Receives Over \$78 Million Towards Homelessness Funding

In the wake of the government shutdown at HUD, [funding grants](#) were [renewed and new grants were awarded](#) to local Continuum of Care agencies running homelessness programs. Massachusetts received over \$78 million to support 196 local organizations.

CHAPA Submits Comments Opposing Changes to Home Appraisal Rules

CHAPA submitted [comments to oppose a proposed rule change](#) that would increase the threshold level for when appraisals are required from \$250,000 to \$400,000. CHAPA argues that increasing the threshold would negatively impact low- and moderate-income homebuyers because appraisals play a critical role in ensuring fair and accurate home valuation.



Recent Research

Massachusetts Housing Partnership Launches DataTown

Massachusetts Housing Partnership's (MHP) [Center for Housing Data launched DataTown](#), a new interactive website of community-level information for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. DataTown creates a one-stop shop for community information on population growth, housing production, demographics, employment, commuting, income, affordability, and racial composition.

Interactive Tool Shows Two Decades of Social & Economic Change in Greater Boston

The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University released a [new tool that allows users to visualize Census Bureau data](#) on home prices, rents, household income, race, ethnicity, education levels, and housing cost burdens from 1990-2016.

Urban Institute Examines Economic Mobility Services for Affordable Housing Residents

This new [report identifies economic mobility services](#) that could be administered by or in coordination with affordable housing providers. The report highlights the work of [EMPath's Bridge to Self-Sufficiency® program](#) in Massachusetts.

Housing Assistance Council Reports on Rental Housing Shortage in Rural America

This report outlines the [unique challenges facing rural affordable housing production and preservation](#). For example, no new direct-financed housing has been developed in years and existing properties are increasingly

losing their affordability provisions.

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