

[View this email in your browser.](#)



CHAPA Housing eBriefs

March 7, 2019



State Updates

Massachusetts Awards \$67 Million for Affordable Housing

On February 28, the [Baker-Polito Administration](#) announced [\\$67 million in affordable housing awards](#) to support the creation of 643 new rental housing units, including 397 units of affordable housing, at nine different developments across Massachusetts.

Governor Baker Re-Files Housing Choice

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11, 2019

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

March 14, 2019

[Young Professionals Dialogue Series with MAPC](#)

March 26, 2019

[CHAPA Breakfast Forum in Springfield: Who Shapes Local Housing Decisions?](#)

Legislation

On February 27, Governor [Baker re-filed the Housing Choice bill](#) to enable cities and towns to adopt zoning best practices related to housing development by a simple majority vote, rather than the current two-thirds supermajority. CHAPA looks forward to working with the Administration and the Legislature to pass the bill while also continuing to work on the policies and resources needed to increase access to affordable housing, prevent displacement, and expand housing choices in all communities.

Funding Round Announced for Community Scale Housing Initiative

On February 26, [DHCD and MassHousing announced a funding round](#) for the Community Scale Housing Initiative to provide up to \$10 million for projects that include 5-20 rental units, with at least 25% of the units set aside as affordable.

2019 Housing Choice Designation Application Now Open

[DHCD opened the 2019 Housing Choice Designation Application](#), which recognizes communities that have achieved certain housing production targets and set policies that encourage future growth. Designated communities receive access to a special grant program and preference for other state resources. Applications are due March 14.

Boston Awards \$26 Million for Affordable Housing

On February 20, Mayor [Walsh announced more than \\$26 million for affordable housing](#) in Boston from the Community Preservation Fund, the Department of Neighborhood Development, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust. The awards will create and preserve 515 homes in 10 developments across the city. The funding will also support the city's Acquisition Opportunity Program and the Boston Home Center.

Mass. Legislature Announces Committee Assignments



CHAPA is Hiring!



CHAPA is hiring for our next Program Manager! If you would like to assist low- and moderate-income individuals and families with the resale or refinance of their affordable homes, check out the full job description [here](#).

BECOME A
CHAPA MEMBER

DONATE TO
CHAPA

JOIN A CHAPA
GROUP OR
COMMITTEE

JOIN CHAPA
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS



The [MA House and Senate has announced their leadership and committee assignments](#) for the legislative session.

Rep. Kevin Honan (D-Boston) will return as chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, joined by new Senate Co-Chair Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn). For the budget committees, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) will lead House Ways and Means and Sen. Michael Rodrigues (D-Wesport) will chair Senate Ways and Means. CHAPA looks forward to working with leadership in the coming months.



Federal Updates

HUD Seeks Applicants for Civil Rights Training

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity announced [\\$1.5 million in new funding](#) to create and relaunch a specialized training academy dedicated to preparing civil rights professionals to combat housing discrimination.

CHAPA Joins National Partners in Calling for Funding Increases for Affordable Housing Programs

CHAPA signed-on to [three nationwide letters urging Congress to increase funding](#) for the following affordable housing and community development programs: Section 4 Capacity Building and Affordable Housing Program, The Federal HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Federal Community Development Block Grant.

U.S. Senate Banking Committee Approves Mark Calabria

[Mark Calabria was approved by the Senate Banking Committee](#) on a party-line vote (13-12) to advance his

nomination to the full Senate for confirmation as Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

HUD Toughens Housing Inspections for Public Housing Authorities & Other Landlords

On February 20, [HUD announced it would dramatically reduce the advance notice](#) it provides to public housing authorities and private owners of HUD-subsidized apartment developments for inspections. HUD's new standard provides 14 days' notice before an inspection, a shift from current notice which can extend up to four months.



Recent Research

Klein Hornig Releases 2018/19 Edition of LIHTC Outline

A key resource for lawyers, project managers, advocates, and policymakers, [Klein Hornig released their annual Low Income Housing Tax Credit outline](#) last week. This year's update includes tax changes made by Congress and covers the decision of the Massachusetts SJC decision regarding the right of first refusal in *Homeowner's Rehab Inc. v. Related Corporate*.

What Factors Cause Housing Instability?

A [new article in Housing Policy Debate](#) finds that changes in family employment structure, job insecurity, automobile ownership, and the number of adult family members within a household correlate with housing instability. Moreover, households with children are particularly vulnerable to housing instability.

Warren Group Reports Record Prices and Fewer

Sales

In Massachusetts, [home and condo sales fell 10% in January](#) compared to last January, and the median single-family sale price increased 4.9% to \$367,000. Home sale totals for the month were also the lowest since January 2015.

Enterprise Housing Tenure Report Finds Widening Gap in Homeownership

Enterprise released an [update to their ongoing report on housing tenure](#) – for both owners and renters - showing the share of U.S. households owning their own home increased for the 10th straight quarter, but the tenure gap between white and black households is at its widest in nearly 40 years.

Copyright © 2019 Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)