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# CHAPA Housing eBriefs

April 11, 2019



## State Updates

### House Ways & Means Releases FY2020 State Budget Proposal

On April 10, the House Committee on Ways and Means released its [FY2020 state budget proposal](#) with increased funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Public Housing, and Housing Consumer Education Centers. The proposal provides level funding for most of CHAPA's other affordable housing priorities. The House of

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 29, 2019**

[Planning for Fair Housing Up](#)

[Front: CHAPA Forum in Newton](#)

**May 10, 2019**

[Are We Ready? A Forum on Climate-Ready Buildings and Community Resilience in Affordable Housing](#)

Representatives will debate its budget the week of April 22. The Senate will then release and debate its budget proposal in May.

### **2019 Affordable Housing Program Announcement**

On April 2, the [Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston](#) announced it would contribute [\\$20.7 million](#) to the 2019 Affordable Housing Program. Applications for the program will be available starting June 3. The bank also announced \$3.6 million for the Equity Builder Program to assist low-income individuals purchase homes.

### **RFP Released for Home Modification Loan Program**

The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) released a [Request for Proposals](#) seeking provider agencies to administer the Home Modification Loan Program. This program assists homeowners and small landlords fund alterations to keep disabled or elderly family members in their homes. Proposals are due April 24.

### **Awards Announced to Expand “A Better Life” Program**

On March 21, the [Baker Administration](#) announced [\\$1 million to expand the A Better Life program](#) to three additional housing authorities in New Bedford, Gloucester, and Taunton. The program connects families in state-aided public housing with resources for education, employment, and financial literacy.



## **Federal Updates**

### **New England U.S. Senators Lead Effort to Support**



**Thanks to everyone who joined us for our April 3rd forum/the Federal Reserve's report release!** Check out the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's [review](#) of their report and the event.



**Did you make it to our Springfield forum?** Thanks to Way Finders for hosting ['Who Shapes Local Housing Decisions?'](#) last month and to the partners, panelists, and attendees who discussed how to create a more inclusive public input process with us.



**At Housing Day 2019, nearly 80**

## National Housing Trust Fund

After a month long delay, the [Federal Housing Finance Agency announced](#) it is providing \$244.86 million to the Housing Trust Fund and \$131.84 million to the Capital Magnet Fund. In January, U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Susan Collins (R-ME) sent a letter to FHFA Acting Director Joseph Otting calling on the agency to transfer the funds, as obligated by law.

## Senator Warren Re-Introduces Major Federal Housing Bill

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth [Warren re-introduced sweeping legislation](#) that aims to expand housing opportunities, break down barriers to segregation, and address the nation's housing shortage. [The bill](#) would make robust investments to the National Housing Trust Fund and other new funds to increase housing production.

## Trump Releases 2020 Budget Proposal

The [Trump Fiscal Year 2020 budget](#) would deal a critical blow to affordable housing programs that serve communities across the country. The proposed budget would cut funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by \$8.6 billion and incorporate policy changes to enforce work requirements on residents living in public housing and other HUD assisted housing.

## Housing Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act Passes U.S. House

[This program](#) would allow participating housing authorities to work with voucher holders who want to move to less poverty-stricken areas and provide services like financial coaching, outreach to property owners for participation, housing search assistance, and post-move services like regular check-ins and landlord/tenant mediation. The bill passed the House with wide partisan support (387-22).

## IRS Changes Veteran Housing Policy

The [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\) issued a notice](#) last week that a 2008 clarification to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) general public use requirement

**people met with their legislators to advocate for increased affordable housing production, preservation, & planning in MA. Please contact your legislators in support of [CHAPA's Priorities](#) today!**

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extends to Private Activity Bonds in LIHTC projects.

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## Recent Research

### **The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition released its [annual report on the housing crisis](#) facing extremely low-income renters. The report found the U.S. has a shortage of more than 7.2 million rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income renter households.

### **Growing Shortage of Affordable Housing for Extremely Low Income in Mass.**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston report examined [the shortage of affordable housing for extremely low-income households](#) in Massachusetts. The report estimated that by 2035, between \$843 million and \$1.03 billion will be needed annually to preserve expiring use units and increase the subsidized housing inventory sufficiently.

### **National Polling Results Find Majority Support for Affordable Housing**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition released the [results of a national public opinion poll](#) that found a vast majority of the public support affordable housing as a top national priority.

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