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# CHAPA Housing Briefs

May 2019



## State Updates

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

On May 7, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means released its [FY2020 state budget proposal](#), including increased funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program, and Public Housing. The Senate will debate the budget the week of May 20th. The House and Senate will then work to reconcile the differences between their budget proposals in

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 10, 2019**

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

**June 12, 2019**

**TBA Next Week:**  
Construction & Design for Today and Tomorrow: Part II

**October 30, 2019**

[CHAPA's 52nd Annual Dinner](#)

June.

## **Baker Administration Announces Supportive Housing Awards**

On May 7, [the Baker Administration announced funding awards](#) to produce and preserve 147 units of supportive housing for vulnerable populations, including homeless families and individuals, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals with disabilities. All units will be affordable to people with low- and extremely low-incomes. The awards will fund seven projects with \$6 million in grant funding, \$2.5 million in federal funding, and state project-based housing vouchers.

## **CHAPA Statement on Governor's Housing Choice Legislation**

On April 26, [CHAPA released a statement on Governor Baker's Housing Choice legislation](#). We look forward to working to pass this legislation, as it will make a substantial impact in communities working to encourage housing development and undo policies that prevent housing production and perpetuate segregation. The Governor's bill is not a standalone solution to Massachusetts' affordable housing crisis; additional strategies will be needed to address the many challenges faced by the people of this state. We will work to pass policies this session that further increase access to affordable housing, prevent displacement, reduce homelessness, grow the housing stock for people across income levels, and expand opportunities for people to live in the communities they choose.

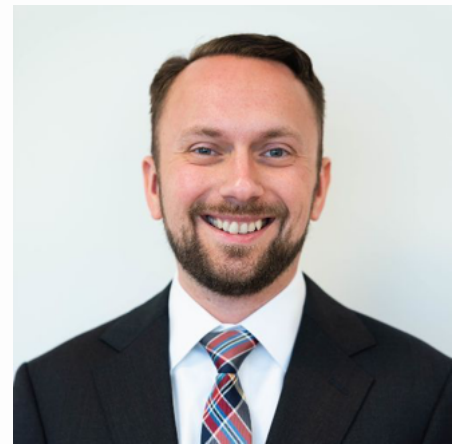
## **Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development Announce Listening Sessions**

The Baker Administration will hold [four regional listening sessions](#) this month to gain input for their economic development strategy, hosted by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Michael Kennealy. These sessions will offer an opportunity to connect with local leaders and shape the Governor's economic development plan.

## **House Finalizes FY2020 State Budget Proposal**



**Did you make it to our Fair Housing forum in Newton last week?** Check out a [recap on our site](#) and the pics on [our Facebook](#).



**Join us in welcoming our new staff member, [David Gasser](#), to the CHAPA team!** David will be working with Chapter 40B homeowners to refinance and/or resell their affordable homes.

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CHAPA**

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On April 25, the Massachusetts [House of Representatives approved its final FY2020 state budget proposal](#). The budget includes significant increased investments in the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Public Housing, and Housing Consumer Education Centers. It also provides increased funding for the Community Preservation Trust Fund.

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### **DHCD Seeks Comments on Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing**

The Department of Housing and Community Development ([DHCD](#)) [is seeking comments](#) on its draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Written comments can be submitted until May 29th.



### **\$1.5 Million Awarded for Foreclosure Counseling & Homebuyer Education Grants**

On April 22, the Baker-Polito Administration's [Division of Banks awarded \\$1.5 million in grants](#) to fund first-time homeownership education programs and foreclosure prevention counseling centers throughout the Commonwealth. A total of 20 awards were made to 10 foreclosure prevention regional centers and 10 consumer counseling organizations.



## Federal Updates

### **HUD Proposes Rule to Prevent Undocumented Immigrants from Accessing Federally Assisted Housing**

On April 17th the [Trump Administration proposed a rule](#) to prevent undocumented immigrants from accessing federal housing assistance, such as public housing and section 8. While details of the rule are not available during

the 15-day Congressional review period, the rule will become public in the coming days, after which there will be 60 days for public comment. CHAPA will submit comments opposing this rule.

### **Federal Housing Finance Agency Releases Trust Fund Allocation**

In April, The Federal Housing Finance Agency released the [2018 national Housing Trust Fund \(HTF\) annual allocation to HUD](#). The HTF targets funding to help build and preserve affordable housing with an emphasis on rental housing for households with extremely low-incomes. The first allocation from the trust fund was disbursed in 2016. In Massachusetts, these funds helped create or preserve 88 units across seven projects, including 11 units specifically for homeless women, 12 units for homeless veterans, and 9 units for the elderly.

### **Unclear Picture for 2020 Federal Appropriations Bill**

The multi-step [process for approving an annual appropriations bill kicked off in April](#), setting the stage for bicameral, bi-partisan, and intra-party negotiations to fund the federal government. Looming over these negotiations is the threat of sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the President's request for border wall funding, a request that held-up this fiscal year's appropriations bill for months and shut down parts of the government, including HUD.

### **Representative Waters Releases Housing is Infrastructure Act of 2019**

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, released [draft legislation](#) entitled, "Housing is Infrastructure Act of 2019." The [bill would make significant investments in federal affordable housing](#) and community development programs, including \$70 billion for public housing capital improvements.

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## Recent Research

### **Data Rich Report Looks at the Changing Faces of Greater Boston**

A collaboration of some of the leading research institutions in Greater Boston just released a report which found [the region grew by roughly 530,000 residents since 1990](#), driven almost entirely by increases in non-white immigrants. The report examines the inequalities for people of color in terms of political representation, housing, educational attainment, and income.

### **National Housing Conference Examines Housing Challenges for Workers**

The [National Housing Conference released its 2018 edition of Paycheck to Paycheck](#), a database allowing users to discover the rental and homeownership affordability challenges of workers in 81 occupations in 259 metro areas nationwide.

### **Children’s Defense Fund Places Housing at Center of Ending Child Poverty**

The Children’s Defense Fund released [“Ending Child Poverty Now,”](#) showing 13.5% of children in Massachusetts live below the poverty line. The report recommends making vouchers available to all households with children below 150% of poverty for whom fair market rent exceeds 50% of their income.

### **How are Housing Costs Burdening the Middle Class?**

The Brookings Institute released a new report [“Cost, Crowding, or Commuting? Housing Stress on the Middle Class,”](#) which examines middle-class housing stress along four dimensions: affordability, inadequate space, commute times, and homeownership.

## **Public Housing Authorities in the Private Market**

A new [article in Housing Policy Debate](#) (behind a paywall) examines the increased use of public-private partnerships for public housing rehabilitation and production. The authors estimate that as of 2013, Public Housing Authorities owned more than 150,000 units outside of the traditional HUD-assisted housing stock. One of the authors posted [a summary on Harvard's Joint Center website](#).



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