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CHAPA Housing Briefs

August 2019



State Updates

Governor Signs FY2020 State Budget

On July 31, [Governor Baker signed the Fy2020 state budget](#), with \$23.4 million more than FY19 for CHAPA's budget priorities. The final budget includes significant increases to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program, and Public Housing. This translates to fair market rents for MRVP, an additional 200 vouchers for AHVP, and the first significant increase in operating subsidy for Public

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7, 2019

[RAD for PRAC: How Section 202 Owners Can Take Advantage of HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration](#)

October 30, 2019

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

Housing in a decade. Thanks to Gov. Baker, Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Spilka, Rep. Michlewitz, and Sen. Rodrigues for their leadership on the budget!



CPA Community Receive Funding Increase

The state budget also provides [more funding for the state's Community Preservation Trust Fund](#) through an increase to the deeds recording fees from \$20 to \$50. The fee to record a municipal lien was increased from \$10 to \$25. The increased fees will take effect on December 31, 2019, providing an estimated \$36 million more annually for communities that have enacted the Community Preservation Act.



MRVP Rent Limits Raised to Current Fair Market Rent

With the signing of the state budget, [DHCD raised the rent limit for mobile MRVP vouchers to current Fair Market Rent levels](#) as of August 1. The rent limits for MRVP were last updated in 2005. The new rent limits vary based on location and bedroom size. For example, the monthly rent limit for a 2-bedroom apartment in Boston increased from \$1,392 to \$2,194.

DHCD Seeks Comments on Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan

DHCD seeks [comments on its Draft Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan](#), which was last updated in September 2014. The proposed revisions incorporate changes in federal and DHCD policy. Public comments on the plan are due to DHCD by Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

Join us on October 30th in [celebrating the accomplishments of four leaders in affordable housing](#):
Howard Cohen of Beacon Communities,
Wendell Joseph of City of Cambridge,
Anabelle Rondon of Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, and
Jesse Mermell of Alliance for Business Leadership.

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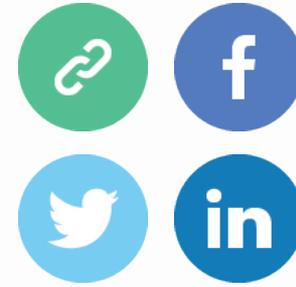
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Federal Updates

President Signs Two-Year Budget Agreement to Lift Spending Caps

On August 2nd, the President signed into law a [two-year budget agreement that lifts strict caps on federal spending](#), including housing and community development programs. Congress can now proceed with their work on the [FY20 Appropriations Bill](#) in an effort to avoid a government shutdown on October 1st.



HUD Submits Proposal to Increase Difficulty of Establishing Housing Discrimination Claims

[On July 31st](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) circulated a [proposed rule that would rewrite how plaintiffs must articulate a disparate impact claim](#) under the Federal Fair Housing Act. After a 15-day review period by Congress, the rule will be published in the Federal Register, and the public will have 60 days to comment.

CHAPA Submits Letter of Support for the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act

The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act would make significant changes to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and provide a significant boost to affordable housing production and preservation in the Commonwealth. [CHAPA submitted a letter of support](#) to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation asking members to co-sponsor and publicly support this important legislation.



Recent Research

**Earned Income Tax Credit May Help Families
Access Housing**

Researchers from Syracuse University and the University of Michigan [analyzed](#) whether one of the nation's largest anti-poverty programs—The Earned Income Tax Credit—[affects the housing](#) (eviction, homelessness, and affordability) and living arrangements (e.g. doubling up) of low-income families.

MAPC Finds Oversupply of Parking in Greater Boston Housing Developments

A three-year study by Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) revealed that [average parking use in Greater Boston was less than one space per household](#). In affordable housing development sites where 50 percent or more of the apartments are deed restricted, only 0.55 cars were parked per household.



A safe, healthy, and affordable home for all.

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