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# CHAPA Housing Briefs

September 2019



## State Updates

### Mobile State Voucher Rents Updated

On September 10, the Department of Housing and Community Development ([DHCD](#)) [updated the maximum rent limits for mobile Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program \(MRVP\) vouchers](#) to reflect the new FY2020 fair market rents (FMRs) released earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Rent levels vary by municipality and bedroom size. For example, the maximum rent for a 2-bedroom

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 27, 2019**

[CHAPA Regional Meeting: Peabody](#)

*More regional meetings TBA soon!*

**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](#)

apartment increased from \$2,194 to \$2,311/month in Boston.

## **Governor Files Supplemental Budget with New Funding for ELI Housing & Down Payment Assistance**

On September 6, [Governor Baker filed a supplemental budget](#) to close out FY2019, which ended with a major revenue surplus. The Governor proposed \$10 million to support production of new affordable housing for those with extremely low incomes (ELI) and another \$10 million to support a down payment assistance program for first time homebuyers. The Legislature is expected to take up the supplemental budget this fall.

## **DHCD Announces Supportive Housing Round**

[DHCD announced a supportive housing funding competition](#) for the creation of more affordable rental units, specifically for vulnerable populations who need support services in order to access and maintain stable housing. Pre-applications for potential projects are due on October 10th, 2019.



## **Federal Updates**

### **White House Releases Housing Finance Reform Plan**

On September 5, the [Trump Administration released a plan outlining legislative and administrative reforms to the nation's housing finance system](#). The proposal includes the recapitalization and release from federal government conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the elimination of the entities' affordable housing goals, which would be replaced with a "more efficient, transparent, and



On October 30th, let's discuss what we can do locally to support more affordable housing with **Governor Charlie Baker** during our networking reception at the [Annual Dinner!](#) **Save \$25 on individual tickets** through September 25th.

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accountable mechanism.”



## **HUD Awards \$4 Million Towards Ending Youth Homelessness in Western MA**

[HUD awarded \\$4.3 million to communities in Franklin County and Springfield](#) to support innovative approaches to ending youth homelessness. HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program will provide more than \$2.4 million to Springfield and just under \$2 million to the Greenfield-based Community Action Pioneer Valley. The funding will help support a wide range of housing programs including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and host homes.

## **Trump Administration Advances New 'Public Charge' Rule**

On August 12, the [Trump Administration announced it would move forward with a new rule targeting immigrants who legally use public benefits](#). The rule could result in the denial of green cards to immigrants who legally access housing assistance like Section 8 housing vouchers, creating, in essence, a wealth test to determine whether those immigrants have the means to support themselves. CHAPA will continue to work with our local and national partners to push back against this harmful rule.



## **Recent Research**

### **JCHS Report Links Housing Costs to Unnecessary Land Use Regulations**

[The Joint Center for Housing Studies \(JCHS\) published a paper](#) that looked back at five presidential commissions and federal initiatives to eliminate local barriers to housing development. They argued that each was based on

the proposition that unnecessary land use regulations  
drive up production costs and drive down housing supply.



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