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CHAPA Housing Briefs

December 2019



State Updates

Legislature Passes Final FY2019 Supplemental Budget

On December 11, the Legislature passed [the final FY2019 supplemental budget H.4246](#) to spend the \$1 billion budget surplus. The budget bill now moves to Governor Baker's desk for his review. The Legislature's final version of the FY19 Supplemental budget includes a [\\$2.5 million allocation for down payment assistance programs](#) and [\\$2 million for a rental and mortgage arrearage assistance](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 2020

[Next Level Housing Solutions Discussion: Building Urgency and Political Will](#)

March 11, 2020

SAVE THE DATE
CHAPA's Housing Day
at the State House
2020

[pilot program](#) to aid more upstream prevention of homelessness. Unfortunately, the budget does not include the \$10 million for ELI housing proposed in previous versions of the budget.

Governor Baker Awards Community Scale Housing Grants

On November 13, [Governor Baker awarded \\$4.2 million through the Community Scale Housing Initiative](#) to support the production of 40 new rental homes, including 30 affordable homes. The initiative supports projects that will create between five and 20 new affordable units in communities outside of Boston.

DHCD Publishes Final Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

[DHCD published its final Analysis of Impediments \(AI\) to Fair Housing Choice](#), along with an AI Action Steps chart. The report identifies the fair housing priorities and goals that will guide the Commonwealth's housing policies through 2024.



Federal Updates

Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act Continues to Gain Strong Bipartisan Support

More than one-fourth of the Senate and one-third of the House have cosponsored the [Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act \(AHCIA\)](#), which would strengthen the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Advocates are trying to include this in an end-of-year financial package proposal. To aid in this effort, [please reach out to your local federal elected official delegation in support](#) of including the AHCIA in the final end-of year spending bill.



Last week, **Foxborough residents engaged in great conversations about how to elevate the need for housing opportunity in their community!** Learn more about [our Municipal Engagement Initiative work](#) and how you can get involved in these conversations too.

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President Appoints Marbut as Executive Director of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

[President Trump appointed Robert Marbut as Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) on December 4, following the ousting of former Director Matthew Doherty. Marbut's appointment raises serious concerns among homelessness advocates because of his rejection of the "Housing First" approach to ending homelessness.

Congress Adopts Stopgap Measure to Fund Government through December 20th

[Congress enacted a second continuing resolution \(CR\) for fiscal year 2020](#), which keeps funding for all federal discretionary programs at FY2019 levels. A new spending package will need to be enacted by December 20 in order to avoid a government shutdown. As housing costs continue to increase, funding for HUD at FY19 levels are not sufficient for FY2020.



Recent Research

Census Numbers Show Decline in Poverty Rates; Concerns About Homelessness Remain High

A recent report published by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) [documented a slight decline of 0.5% in the poverty rate since 2010](#). However, the numbers also showed the rate of elderly homelessness was up to 9.7% in 2018, with predictions of a homeless population over the age of 65 that will triple in the next decade. Furthermore, 66% of our homeless population in 2018 was made up of Black and Hispanic individuals.

National Fair Housing Alliance Documents

Attacks on Fair Housing

The National Fair Housing Alliance published its [2019 Fair Housing Trends Report](#), showing that housing discrimination complaints are on the rise while HUD has been dismantling fair housing protections by suspending the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulation and weakening the disparate impact standard, among other actions.



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