

[View this email in your browser.](#)



CHAPA Housing Briefs

February 2020



State Updates

Applications Open for Housing Choice Community Designation

DHCD is now [accepting applications for communities to receive the Housing Choice designation](#). The designation recognizes communities that have achieved certain housing production targets and set policies that encourage future sustainable growth. Designated communities are eligible for exclusive capital grants and special consideration for 9 other state capital programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21, 2020

[MHP & CHAPA Present: Making the Case for Affordable Housing in Your Community](#)

March 11, 2020

[CHAPA's Housing Day at the State House 2020](#)

May 8th, 2020

SAVE THE DATE
[Chapter 40B Training: Taking the Initiative on Housing Production](#)

Applications are due on March 23rd.

[in Your Community](#)

Mayor Walsh Announces \$69.2 Million for Affordable Housing in Boston

On February 7, [Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced \\$69.2 million in new and recommended funding](#) from the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, and the Community Preservation Fund to create and preserve 1,097 units of housing.



Don't miss the chance to meet with your legislators and advocate for affordable housing!

Join us next month for [Housing Day at the State House](#) on Wednesday, March 11th.

Governor Baker Announces \$44 Million in Affordable Housing Awards

On February 4, the [Baker-Polito Administration announced \\$44 million in direct aid and tax credit allocations](#) to support 11 projects that will create more than 580 new rental units, including 443 units affordable to households with low and very low incomes.

Undersecretary Chan Departs DHCD, Joins MHP

On January 31, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy announced the departure of Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Janelle Chan, who leaves the DHCD to join Massachusetts Housing Partnership as a Senior Policy Fellow. Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Maddox will serve as Acting Undersecretary.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our fourth annual federal

forum. Check out a quick [recap of the forum](#) on our website. Pictures to come soon!

Governor Baker Announces \$2.6 Million in Brownfields Funding Awards

On January 23, [Governor Baker announced \\$2.6 million in Brownfields Redevelopment Fund awards](#) to support the environmental assessment and cleanup of 16 contaminated and challenging sites across the Commonwealth. Once complete, the 16 projects are projected to create and preserve 682 housing units and provide 1,625 full-time and part-time construction jobs.

Governor Baker Files FY2021 Budget Proposal

On January 22, [Governor Baker released his FY2021 Budget Proposal](#). The Governor proposed an increase for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program and level funding for most of CHAPA's other affordable housing,

BECOME A
CHAPA MEMBER

DONATE TO
CHAPA

JOIN A CHAPA
GROUP OR
COMMITTEE

community development, and homelessness prevention budget priorities. The House Committee on Ways and Means will release its budget proposal in mid-April, followed by the House Budget debate.

Baker-Polito Administration Make Housing Choice Awards

On January 8, the [Baker-Polito Administration announced \\$5 million in grants](#) to 30 communities under the Housing Choice Initiative for infrastructure improvements in communities that have shown commitment to advancing sustainable housing production.

DHCD Releases Final 2020-2021 QAP

In January, [DHCD published its final 2020-2021 Qualified Allocation Plan](#) (QAP), which determines how DHCD distributes the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and other affordable housing financing resources. Changes in the 2020-21 QAP include raising the minimum requirement for extremely low-income housing from 10% to 13% and modifying design and scope requirements to encourage green, sustainable, and climate resilient design.



Federal Updates

President Trump Releases FY21 Budget Proposal

On February 10, the [White House released a \\$4.8 trillion budget](#) outlining spending priorities for FY21. The proposal funds HUD at \$47.9 billion, a 15% decrease from FY20. The funding decrease is due to the removal of the Community Development Block Grant Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program account.

JOIN CHAPA
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS



House Democrats Release \$760B Infrastructure Package

On January 29, [House Democrats released a five-year \\$760 billion infrastructure framework](#) entitled “Moving Forward.” In addition to transportation and clean energy, the plan identifies the Low Income Housing Tax Credit as a key infrastructure need. [Massachusetts leaders have called for more investments towards housing](#) in any infrastructure framework, including the expansion of existing tax credits and the 4% LIHTC minimum provision of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act.

Proposed Changes to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule Published

On January 14, [HUD published a proposal for new changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\) rule](#). The proposal would use new assessment metrics to track fair housing goals, establish simplified minimum certification requirements, and change the definition of AFFH. The 60-day public comment period ends on March 16, 2020.



Recent Research

JCHS Releases Latest Report on America’s Rental Housing

The [Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies \(JCHS\)](#) [released its updated report](#) on America’s Rental Housing. Findings show the number of cost burdened renter households increased to 20.8 million (47.5% of all renter households) in 2018. Further, most of the new rental housing supply has been concentrated at prices affordable to the highest incomes and rental vacancies averaged 6.8%

over the past year, the lowest vacancy reading on record since 1986.

Updated Obstacles on the Road to Opportunity Report Released

The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center and Massachusetts Association for Community Action released their updated [“Obstacles on the Road to Opportunity: Finding a Way Forward for the Children and Families of Massachusetts”](#) report. Findings show 23% of renters pay 50% of their incomes or more on rent each month and about 90,000 children live in high-poverty neighborhoods.



A safe, healthy, and affordable home for all.

Copyright © 2020 Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)