CHAPA Housing Briefs

June 2020

State Updates

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s New England Public Policy Center released a report examining mortgage payments in New England during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report finds that 15% of renters in New England were unable to pay their rent in May, and that the number of households with payment difficulties has increased since March. The report also notes that the eviction moratorium has provided some relief, but that many renters are still struggling to pay rent.

Federal Updates

On May 15, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, which includes provisions to provide rental assistance to low-income households. The bill includes $25 billion for emergency rental assistance, which can be used to cover up to three months of rent for eligible households. The bill also includes $100 billion for affordable housing investments, including $100 million for emergency rental assistance in the state of Massachusetts.

DHCD Releases NOFA for CDBG Funds

On May 15, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development released its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The NOFA is available online and applications are due on Friday, June 19. The NOFA includes $100 million for rental and mortgage assistance, as well as $10 million for community development projects. DHCD will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis after the deadline.

Landlords Challenge Statewide Eviction Moratorium

Two landlords have challenged the statewide eviction moratorium in court. The suit, filed with the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, argues that the moratorium violates the rights of landlords to collect rent and that it is unconstitutional. The case is expected to be argued in court later this month.

Massachusetts’ ESG Made $5 Million More Available for Rent Relief

In addition to the $3 million the fund launched with in April, Massachusetts’ ESG has made an additional $5 million available for rent relief. The fund will provide up to three months of rental assistance to eligible households, with recipients receiving up to $4,000 for a 12-month period. The fund is open to households at or below 80% of the area median income.

CHAPA Regional Meetings

Massachusetts’ ESG has announced its upcoming meetings, which will focus on the work of centering equity. The meetings will provide opportunities for collaboration and discussion, and are open to all.

Recent Research

A new report by the Economic Innovation Group finds that the number of high-poverty neighborhoods has increased, the share of Hispanic individuals in high-poverty neighborhoods is growing, and the share of high-poverty neighborhoods has widened. The report details the growth and persistence of high-poverty neighborhoods.

The report, titled “Neighborhoods of Opportunity: Persistence of Neighborhood Poverty,” finds that the number of high-poverty neighborhoods has increased in recent years, and that the share of Hispanic individuals in high-poverty neighborhoods has also grown. The report also notes that the share of high-poverty neighborhoods has widened.

The report is part of a series of reports on the growth and persistence of high-poverty neighborhoods. The series includes reports on the growth and persistence of high-poverty neighborhoods in other states, as well as reports on the growth and persistence of high-poverty neighborhoods nationally.

The report is available online and can be downloaded for free. CHAPA encourages its members and partners to share the report with others and to use it as a tool for discussion and action. CHAPA also invites its members and partners to join us in working for effective change and just outcomes for all.

The report highlights the need for policies and programs that address the causes and effects of exclusionary housing policies. We hope you will join us in working for effective change and just outcomes for all.

Over CHAPA’s more than fifty-year history, we have borne witness to the causes and effects of exclusionary housing policies. We have been advocates for effective change and just outcomes for all. We will be in touch soon with a new date and time for our upcoming meeting.

We at CHAPA are outraged by the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. These senseless acts of violence are a direct result of systemic racism and police brutality. We demand justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor.

We demand an end to police brutality and the defunding of police departments. We demand an end to systemic racism and police brutality.

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