State Updates

The Boston Bar Association released a new report analyzing the effects of legal representation in eviction cases. The report found that providing full legal representation to tenants could save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts $2.40 in subsequent court costs for every $1 invested. The report, titled "The Legal Representation in MA Eviction Cases: Assessing the Benefits of Full Legal Representation in Eviction Cases," highlights the significant impact that legal representation can have on eviction outcomes.

The report, released by the Boston Bar Association (BBA) through its Legal Services Division, is based on a study of 200 eviction cases in six Massachusetts counties. The findings suggest that legal representation can reduce the likelihood of a tenant losing their home, thereby saving both tenants and the Commonwealth significant financial and emotional costs. The report also notes that the indirect benefits of eviction avoidance—such as stabilizing communities and reducing homelessness—cannot be ignored.

Federal Updates

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would allocate $100 billion in funding for affordable housing and community development. The bill, known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, includes $70 billion for public housing repairs and $30 billion for affordable housing grants. The legislation would also provide funding for other programs such as housing counseling, energy efficiency improvements, and lead hazard control.

Recent Research

A new report from the Urban Institute, titled "Evictions in Boston: Findings from the Housing Discrimination Testing Program and Analysis," reveals that landlords in Boston are more likely to reject voucher holders and minimum wage earners. The report, released in partnership with The Boston Foundation and the Racial Justice Fund, found that landlords in Boston rejected voucher holders more than in other major cities. The report highlights the need for policies to protect vulnerable tenants and address housing discrimination.

More information on the Urban Institute's report can be found on their website. The report is also available for download on the Boston Foundation's website.