

CHAPA Housing Briefs

December 3, 2014

State Updates

Budget Cuts

To close a \$329 million budget shortfall, Governor Patrick used his 9C authority to immediately cut \$198 million from the state budget. Because the Governor's 9C authority is limited to spending within executive branch agencies, he is seeking legislative approval to make cuts to areas such as local aid. In addition, the Governor received commitments from several quasi-public agencies to return a portion of state dollars to the Commonwealth. Although the following housing items were reduced, the Department of Housing and Community Development expects to carry out FY15 plans and commitments. More funding will be needed in FY16 to support and expand these programs that make it possible for households with low incomes to afford housing.

- The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (7004-9024) was reduced by \$786,636 bringing total FY15 funding after the reduction to \$75.6 million.
- The DMH Rental Subsidy program (7004-9033) was reduced by \$76,875, bringing total FY15 funding after the reduction to \$5 million.

Other housing related programs will be impacted by the budget shortfall. MassDevelopment has been asked to forego \$29 million included in the economic development bill passed in July. This would result in cuts to the newly established Gateway Cities Transformative Development Initiative and the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund. MassDevelopment is moving forward with plans for both of these programs. More funding will be needed in FY16 to support and expand these programs, which are vital for economic development and the revitalization of Gateway Cities.

Click here for more information on the FY15 budget cuts.

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Regional Meetings

This fall, CHAPA hosted thirteen Regional Meetings across the Commonwealth to meet with housing professionals, advocates, community members, elected officials, and other stakeholders who want to expand access to safe, quality, and affordable housing. We asked our partners to share housing challenges facing their communities and state policies that can help each community's efforts to provide affordable housing. The top four topics that came up in these meetings were housing and economic development, the continuing foreclosure crisis, housing for an aging population, and housing for persons with disabilities. For a full summary of highlights from the regional meetings, **click here**. To view the PowerPoint presentation from the Regional Meetings, **click here**.

Federal Update

Continuing Resolution FY2015

The Continuing Resolution (CR) signed in September to keep government programs running at current funding levels is due to expire on December 11. It is unclear whether Congress will reach agreement on a full year bill by then or whether it will adopt another stop gap measure. So far, the CR has had little or no effect on HUD programs as HUD distributes funding for the public housing and Section 8 programs on a calendar year basis, according to an analysis by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). However, HUD cannot award funding for major grant programs, such as HOME, CDBG, and McKinney homeless assistance, until after the final 2015 appropriations bill has been enacted, setting final funding levels in those areas.

Upcoming Events

December 12, 2014

New England Housing Network Annual Conference - Thinking Boldly: Innovative Approaches to New England's Affordable Housing Challenges

February 5, 2014

Save the Date! CHAPA Housing Day at the State House

To view all CHAPA events please visit
www.chapa.org/event





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