



Welcome Home Massachusetts

Support local housing initiatives

Welcome Home Massachusetts Technical Assistance to Communities (Mini-Technical Assistance Grants)

Introduction

Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), the non profit umbrella organization for affordable housing in Massachusetts, is introducing the second phase of its Welcome Home Massachusetts initiative: Technical Assistance Grants will be offered to communities to both energize and mobilize local support for affordable housing or create additional affordable housing opportunities.

The Welcome Home Massachusetts grant funding will be provided to each recipient community to advance a specific housing development or create a better environment in which to advance a local housing agenda. Please refer to Response Form for examples of mini-grants.

Objectives

- Promote the use of smart growth and compact neighborhood developments;
- Increase awareness and support for a particular affordable housing opportunity and affordable housing in general;
- Advance an affordable housing development, zoning by-law or housing regulation;
- Demonstrate the efficacy of mobilizing local citizens to support affordable housing;
- Strengthen or expand community based groups that can serve as a permanent presence at the local level to champion an increase in affordable housing and community development; and
- Collaboration among two or more entities and/or communities to expand approaches to increase affordable housing development.

What Resources Are Available?

Mini - grants of up to \$2,500 for technical assistance or reimbursement for direct costs will be available to three to five communities. These funds may be combined with other resources to which communities may have access.

Examples of Eligible Types of Projects/Activities

- Promoting compact neighborhoods and smart growth development efforts;
- Supporting affordable housing proposals in front of local approval boards;
- Supporting town meeting/council hearings on zoning by-laws or other land use regulatory changes;
- Forming a municipal housing trust;
- Adopting the Community Preservation Act; or
- Promoting efforts to utilize a greater portion of Community Preservation Act funds for housing.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Local housing partnerships or communities;
- Local affordable housing trusts;
- Community Preservation Committees;
- Housing Advocacy Groups;
- Community or non-profit corporations;
- Municipalities; and
- Regional housing and community development entities.

Application Process

Interested applicants must complete the Welcome Home Massachusetts Mini Grant Response Form and submit to CHAPA no later than Wednesday February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm. Completed forms should be submitted electronically to cmarine@chapa.org. Length should not exceed 3 pages.

Selection Criteria

- Collaboration amongst community groups to broaden support for affordable housing production and community development;
- Local opportunity – such as a housing initiative or development proposal – that would benefit from support of local residents;
- Breadth of likely local support and success for the prospective housing initiative or development proposal;
- Potential for positive, short-term and /or long-term impact, including the production of affordable housing units;
- Reasonable timeframe for demonstrating progress, with a relatively quick start-up time;
- Ability to advance housing opportunities for families, people with disabilities, veterans, and/or diverse racial and ethnic groups; and
- Potential for adaptation of the effort in other communities.

Selection Process

An advisory committee comprised of affordable housing advocates and practitioners will review the responses and select up to three communities for assistance. CHAPA will strive to select efforts from respondents that represent a mix of housing strategies from a range of geographic areas of the state, community types and project types.

Questions?

Contact Carol Marine at cmarine@chapa.org or 617/742-0820.

