



DHCDNEWS

The Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development

GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

LT. GOVERNOR TIMOTHY MURRAY

Thank you for looking at our inaugural edition of DHCD News. This newsletter will give you an overview of what we do at the Department of Housing and Community Development and updates on what's new.

The Commonwealth is made up of 351 cities and towns richly filled with culturally diverse neighborhoods that help drive the vibrancy and vitality of this great state. DHCD serves the Patrick-Murray Administration through the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to provide leadership, technical assistance and resources to foster housing and economic development opportunities which strengthen communities and enhance the quality of life for Massachusetts residents on all income levels.



June 30, 2009 – DCHD Undersecretary Tina Brooks joins Governor Deval Patrick, Housing & Economic Development Secretary Gregory Bialecki (center) and Lt. Governor Timothy Murray (not in photo) to launch the Administration's Communities Count Initiative in Springfield's South End – Emerson Wight Park.

Inside this issue

- ◆ The impact of stimulus funds on housing and economic development in Massachusetts
- ◆ Administration launches Communities Count Initiative in Springfield and Worcester
- ◆ 75 communities receive \$40.4 million in Community Development Block Grants
- ◆ \$45.5 million targeted to get stalled housing developments back on track.
- ◆ DHCD assumes management of emergency assistance shelter system

STIMULUS FUNDS BOOST ADMINISTRATION'S MASSACHUSETTS RECOVERY PLAN

With approximately \$478 million targeted to housing related activities out of the nearly \$9.2 billion in federal stimulus dollars flowing to Massachusetts, it was a very busy and exciting summer of 2009 for DHCD and it will continue throughout the fall. Whether funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are being used to enhance DHCD's existing community development block grant programs, increase weatherization of low- and moderate-income households, boost rapid re-housing efforts for the homeless or get stalled affordable housing projects back on track, that influx of federal dollars is being put to very good use in the Commonwealth creating jobs, improving communities and getting our economy moving forward. Included in those ARRA funds is \$122 million from the Department of Energy to weatherize nearly 17,000 homes over the next three years. \$25 million of those funds will be targeted to a public housing special projects initiative to be used for DOE eligible energy efficiency improvements to state-owned public housing developments. For a detailed look at how ARRA funds are helping the Patrick-Murray Administration in its Massachusetts Recovery Plan to secure the state's economic future, go to www.mass.gov/recovery.

COMMUNITIES COUNT INITIATIVE LAUNCHED



Governor Patrick is flanked by City Manager Michael O'Brien (left) and Main South CDC Executive Director Steve Teasdale on a neighborhood walking tour of the Main South/Chandler/Piedmont area as Worcester joins the Administration's Communities Count initiative.

Last summer, Governor Patrick traveled to Springfield and Worcester to announce the start of a new state partnership with local communities that have developed comprehensive revitalization plans to leverage federal and state dollars to help create jobs, stabilize neighborhoods hit hard by foreclosures and offer resources for businesses during the economic downturn.

Sec. Bialecki and Undersecretary Brooks joined the Governor and Lt. Governor Murray to launch the Communities Count initiative on June 30 in Springfield where more than \$6 million in state, federal, and local resources will be leveraged to support revitalization activities in that city's South End neighborhood.



In July the Governor visited Worcester's Main South/Chandler/Piedmont area neighborhoods where Communities Count will leverage more than \$12.3 million in state and federal funds for those areas and utilize them to acquire, rehabilitate or demolish foreclosed properties, weatherize homes for low-and moderate-income homeowners, offer job training for at risk youths. This program will be duplicated in communities around the Commonwealth that have developed comprehensive revitalization plans.

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES \$40.4M IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

In August, Governor Patrick announced that 75 communities will receive \$40.4 million in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to fund infrastructure upgrade projects, boost social services and increase housing, business and economic development opportunities throughout the state. While more than \$31 million came from annual CDBG program funding, the remaining \$9 million came to Massachusetts through stimulus funds to support some projects that just missed funding in the last fiscal year and for HUD approved capital improvement projects in 8 state-owned public housing developments. CDBGs are administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and funds are distributed in Massachusetts by DHCD to cities and towns in Massachusetts with populations of less than 50,000.



Governor Patrick announced this year's CDBG awards at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink in North Adams, a popular public facility that will receive funds for some important system upgrades. Joining the Governor is a host of young ice skaters along with North Adams Mayor John Barrett, Rep. Dan Bosley and Tina Brooks.

GOVERNOR TARGETS \$45.5M IN RECOVERY FUNDS TO MOVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS FORWARD

Also in August, the Governor announced that DHCD will target \$45.5 million in federal recovery funds to help jump start delayed affordable housing developments throughout Massachusetts and create hundreds of jobs.

Eight affordable housing developments in Beverly, Boston, Framingham, Greenfield, Holliston and Springfield that had been stalled due to the lack of equity available in the low-income housing tax credit market, will receive funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fill the gaps in tax credit projects that were unable to raise sufficient equity to finance substantial project development costs.

For detailed information regarding the above items, please go to www.mass.gov/dhcd and look under News and Updates for 'press releases'.



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For detailed information regarding any of the awards and programs mentioned in this newsletter, please go to www.mass.gov/dhcd and look under News and Updates for 'press releases'.

DHCD ASSUMES MANAGEMENT OF STATE'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On July 1, the Patrick-Murray Administration took an important step toward improving the long-term effectiveness of support systems for the homeless by taking emergency shelter services from the Department of Transitional Assistance and merging them with existing housing programs at DHCD to make state services more efficient by shifting focus away from shelter use to a permanent housing strategy that will help to end homelessness in Massachusetts. Those actions to combine emergency shelter programs with the state's housing resources at DHCD were made possible through legislation filed by the Administration under Article 87 of the Commonwealth's Constitution.

***A SUCCESSFUL MASSACHUSETTS DEPENDS ON
Technology and Innovation, Economic Opportunities for Individuals and Families,
Strong Communities, and Prosperous Regions***

Message from Undersecretary Tina Brooks

Thank you for your interest in DHCD. In these challenging economic times we are striving more than ever to maximize every possible resource available to serve the needs of our cities and towns. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful support for our mission from the Patrick-Murray Administration, our congressional delegation, the state Legislature and our partners in the federal government. Through their ongoing support and through our partnerships with state quasi-public housing agencies and numerous foundations and philanthropic organizations, we have been able to weather this unprecedented economic storm and chart a course that will help secure our long-term economic future.



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