

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Janelle L. Chan, Undersecretary

**Public Housing Notice 2018-24**

To: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors  
From: Amy Stitely, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing  
Subject: BRAVE Act Change Pertaining to Certain Veterans' Income  
Date: December 19, 2018

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On August 9, 2018, [Chapter 218, An Act Relative To Veterans' Benefits, Rights, Appreciation, Validation and Enforcement](#) ("the BRAVE Act") was signed into law. This Act provides for a specific income exclusion for certain veterans in state-aided programs, including state-aided public housing and state-funded rental voucher programs. DHCD anticipates amending its regulations to reflect this income exclusion sometime in 2019. In the meantime, Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) need to be aware of what the new law requires and to implement this change without delay.

[Section 6B of M.G.L. Chapter 115](#) provides for a \$2,000 per year annuity to certain disabled veterans or to the parents and non-remarried surviving spouses of such veterans who are deceased. This annuity is paid by the Commonwealth in two equal installments per year. The BRAVE Act states that this annuity may not be included in income for the purposes of eligibility, including continued eligibility for state programs. Accordingly, LHAs must exclude the amount received from such annuities from gross household income, in addition to the other exclusions that are currently found at 760 CMR 6.05(3).

Please contact your Housing Management Specialist if you have questions.