



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

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

ADDENDUM #1 to Public Housing Notice 2019-27

To: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors

From: Ben Stone, Director, Bureau of Housing Development & Construction, Division of Public Housing

Subject: **ADDENDUM #1 – Fiscal Year 2020 Health & Safety Initiative Q&A**

Date: November 22, 2019

Notice of Funding Availability – Fiscal Year 2020 Health & Safety Initiative

ADDENDUM #1 - Q&A

Through this notice, DHCD is sharing written answers to all questions submitted by email or verbally regarding the Public Housing Innovations (PHI) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) which was posted on November 14th, 2019 ([2019-27](#)). Prospective applicants should review this document and the original NOFA before sending in their funding requests. FY20 Health & Safety Initiative submissions are due by **December 13, 2019, but will be accepted before then**. If there are additional questions about the NOFA, please submit them via email to Fatima.razzaq@mass.gov.

1. Do I need to submit a board vote in order to apply for funding?

No, you can apply to this program without a formal board vote

2. You mention a \$125/unit cap – does that mean I can only spend \$250 on a 2 unit development?

No – the \$125/unit funding request cap is based off of the total number of units in your state funded portfolio. If you have 100 state-funded units, you can request up to \$12,500 even if it is all spent on one unit. Authorities with less than 80 units can still submit up to \$10,000 in Health and Safety projects. The unit calculation is based on state-funded units, excluding those in the Section 8 New Construction/Substantial Rehab portfolio.

3. Can I use Health and Safety Funds for projects already completed and paid for, freeing up additional formula funding?

No – the purpose of this NOFA is to expend additional FY20 funds and support new work that improves health and safety. Requested projects must not have started at time of application, and should not have been previously funded with formula funding through the Capital Improvement Plan.

4. Can I use Health and Safety Funds to replace defective hot water heaters?

Yes, as the lack of hot water impacts resident health and safety. You use health and safety funding for this purpose if the funds will be expended before June 30, 2020.

5. Can I use Health and Safety Funds to replace an obsolete intercom system

Yes, as an intercom system providing regulated access without having to go down stairs supports the health and safety of residents, especially seniors.

6. Can I supplement my award with formula funding if its not enough to do the whole project?

Yes, as long as the combined, larger project still has an estimated construction cost of less than \$50,000 and can be completed before June 30, 2020. Please make a note of this in your submission.

7. When will you be making awards?

We plan to upload approved projects to CIMs and CapHub **within a week following the application deadline of December 13**. If there are sufficient submissions before the deadline we may do an earlier round of awards to get those projects started sooner. If a DHCD PM has given you email confirmation that the project is acceptable, you may start work on it immediately. Please note that you will not be able to invoice for reimbursement until the project is set up in CapHub.