



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

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

December 10, 2018

Dear Municipal Leaders, Planners, and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to announce we are releasing a comprehensive compilation of technical assistance and grants for housing and planning, available to assist communities in accessing our own state resources, as well as resources from partner agencies and non-profit entities. Our goal with the Housing Choice Initiative, is to encourage housing production throughout the Commonwealth. To that end, we undertook a state-wide audit of our existing resources how municipalities have been able to leverage them. This document is one, tangible result of the inquiry.

Local government officials, state agency staff, and community advocates work side by side when planning for and constructing housing. State agencies fund a variety of technical assistance, grants, and a wide range of activities in support of these efforts, which generally operate separately from one another. One goal of Baker-Polito Housing Choice Initiative is to break down silos that may exist and to increase access to programming and better publicize the resources we offer, and the resources our partner agencies offer.

What is the DHCD Technical Assistance Database?

The spreadsheet tracks awards from technical assistance programs and grants from state agencies **related to housing and planning**, starting with Fiscal Year 2016. It tracks community engagement with 14 programs across 7 state agencies and 1 non-profit. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) worked collaboratively to compile the information, and plan to update the database every quarter. The spreadsheet includes all 351 communities in Massachusetts, even if they haven't had a recent grant or technical assistance. This spreadsheet also tracks information about each community, including the last reported percentage of qualified housing on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI), whether they have been designated as a Housing Choice Community, have passed the Community Preservation Act (CPA), and other important indicators related to a local government's capacity related to planning for housing.

Where Can I get it?

The searchable Excel spreadsheet is available on the Housing Choice Initiative web pages <https://www.mass.gov/lists/housing-choice-resources#housing-data-research-and-resources>. This is a **living document** that will be updated periodically. Please note that it only has programs related to housing and planning, so not all grant and technical assistance projects are listed. We hope this tool increases knowledge of and access to available resources. For more information, or specific questions regarding the information presented here, please contact Chris Kluchman at chris.kluchman@mass.gov. Thank you for your continued partnership and support, as we work together to tack our Commonwealth's housing challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Chan".

Janelle Chan
Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development