


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

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Gregory Bialecki, Secretary, EOHED

**PUBLIC HOUSING NOTICE 2011-15**

TO: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors

FROM:  Lizbeth Heyer, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance

SUBJECT: Massachusetts Open Checkbook

DATE: December 7, 2011

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This is to inform you that as part of the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to open and transparent government and as a result of new transparency and accountability reforms, the Commonwealth has launched the "Open Checkbook" database system to provide the public with access to state government spending information on December 5, 2011.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that payment information will now be readily available to the general public, as well as to you. Open checkbook will detail vendor payments, identifying who was paid and when, how much was paid, who made the payment, and the purpose of the payment. The detail could also include information about your contractors and subcontractors. An example of this would be a payment made to your authority, which would appear in the new database and would contain a description field that may include contractor information, such as, "XYZ Co. Invoice #2." I encourage you to share this information with your vendors.

Please see the attached memorandum for more detailed information. This memorandum should also be forwarded to your vendors.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, feel free to contact either Gay Eng at [gay.eng@state.ma.us](mailto:gay.eng@state.ma.us) or Ayo Yakubu-Owolewa at [ayo.yakubu-owolewa@state.ma.us](mailto:ayo.yakubu-owolewa@state.ma.us).