



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

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ◆ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ◆ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

PUBLIC HOUSING NOTICE 2010-05

Memorandum

To: All Local Housing Authorities
From: Deborah Goddard, Chief Counsel *DGS*
Subject: FY2011 Budget Outside Section 186 Regarding Criminal Offender Record
Information (CORI)
Date: July 13, 2010

Section 186 of the FY2011 Budget contains language requiring local housing authorities (LHAs) to obtain CORI for every housing applicant. Questions have been raised as to whether this language changes the way that LHAs obtain or use CORI in screening applications for housing. DHCD has reviewed this outside section of the budget and has determined that it does not conflict with existing law regarding LHA access to CORI found at G.L. c. 6, §168. LHAs may only obtain CORI through the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) and must do so in accordance with the CHSB regulations at 803 CMR 2.00-8.00. DHCD has also determined that Section 186 does not make any changes in the criteria that apply in using CORI to screen applications for housing pursuant to G.L. c. 121B, §32. Once CORI is received from the CHSB that pertains to an applicant, LHAs must continue to determine the applicant's qualification for state-aided housing in accordance with the existing DHCD regulations at 760 CMR 5.08, and in the case of applicants for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, 760 CMR 49.03(2)(f).