



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

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary

## Public Housing Notice 2014-03

To: Executive Director  
From: Lizbeth Heyer, Associate Director for Public Housing and Rental Assistance  
Re: Massachusetts Learning, Employment and Assets Program (Mass LEAP) Request for Responses  
Date: March 4, 2014

I am happy to announce the release of the Mass LEAP Request for Responses (RFR). The issuance of this RFR is in direct response to the work of the Governor's Public Housing Commission and reflects the commitment of the Resident Services Working Group to securing critical resources for self-sufficiency programs that serve family residents of public housing and Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) participants. Through this program, public housing tenants and MRVP participants will have access to a comprehensive set of services and asset development opportunities that will increase family economic stability and opportunity.

Over the next five years, DHCD will commit up to \$8.125 to fund partnerships between Local Housing Authorities (LHAs), Regional Administering Agencies (RAAs), and pre-qualified service providers (Contractors). The partnerships will provide the following services:

- Employment and Career Planning Supports
- Post-Secondary Education and Supports
- Financial Literacy and Asset Development Supports

Participants will build assets through Rental Assistance Escrow accounts that will be established as they increase their earned income. Participants will sign a five (5) year Contract of Participation with goals in each of the three areas. DHCD believes this comprehensive program design has the fullest potential to create meaningful and lasting economic improvements in participating households. Mass LEAP challenges LHAs, service providers, and participants to work together to increase skills, knowledge, and wealth among participants, so they may build a more stable future for themselves and their families.

DHCD hopes to fund between four and eight Mass LEAP sites across the Commonwealth, with a minimum of 50 participants per site. Regional Consortia are encouraged, particularly between smaller LHAs that may not be able to meet the minimum of 50 participants per site. Because the costs of services varies by Contractor, DHCD reserves the right to limit grant awards to \$400,000 per site, in order that we may fund as many sites as possible. Please note, DHCD has not finalized the per person cost for each contractor. This information will be released as soon as contracts are executed with them.

**Bidders' Conference/Vendor Fair and Written Questions**

DHCD will host a bidders' conference and contractor vendors' fair March 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00AM to 1:00PM at Framingham Housing Authority's Rose Kennedy Lane Community Center. We encourage all agencies interested in responding to the RFR to attend, and to invite the approved contractors in their region to attend as well.

Written questions for discussion at the bidders conference will be accepted until 4pm on March 10, 2014. Email your questions to Joanne McKenna (email below).

Please review **all** of the attached documents carefully prior to the bidder's conference and submission, as each contains important information about program design, management, and outcomes.

**RFR Deadline**

Responses are due to DHCD on April 18, 2014, by 4:00PM. Late applications will NOT be accepted. Additional information about applications is found in the RFR and in the Application.

**Mass LEAP Contact information:**

If you have questions about this notice, please email Joanne McKenna at [Joanne.mckenna@state.ma.us](mailto:Joanne.mckenna@state.ma.us).

DHCD is very excited about the Mass LEAP program, which will rely on the strength of its Local Housing Authorities and service provider partners to provide participants with the opportunity to change their futures. We are grateful for your willingness to be part of this change, and look forward to working with you to bring this program to life.