

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

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

September 9, 2003

PUBLIC HOUSING NOTICE 2003-07

Dear Executive Director:

Enclosed you will find a copy of Fiscal Year '04 Budget Guidelines, effective July 1, 2003 or at the start of your local housing authority's fiscal year. The Department continues through the guidelines and its on-going dialogue with Mass NAHRO and its Housing Committee to refine and improve the computerized budget process.

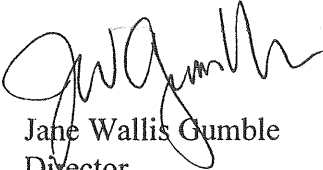
As you know, the economic challenges that are confronting Massachusetts today have seriously impacted every state program, including housing programs. Many programs face serious reductions. Understanding the importance of the housing services provided by your organization to the citizens of the Commonwealth and your residents, DHCD proposed modest rent increases. These increases combined with a reduced subsidy line item of \$25,421,292 will allow 2003 non-utility spending levels to be maintained and not reduced which is no minor achievement in this environment.

Through the guidelines, we are encouraging housing authorities to continue to think of innovative ways to operate more cost effectively and to generate more income from cell towers, energy savings, and rent collections. The guidelines also reinforce the Department's and LHA's increasing emphasis on planning.

Please complete your budget submission in accordance with the revised timetable on page 4 of the guidelines.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for all the additional effort you are expending this year to maintain our joint commitment to providing quality housing for low-income persons. We appreciate your hard work and dedication and look forward to continuing to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jane Wallis Gumble
Director