

Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition

Housing Bond Bill Statement

10/19/23

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, Governor Healey released the Affordable Housing Act, the comprehensive housing bond bill that proposes significant investments and policy changes to address our unprecedented housing crisis.

The Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition, a collaboration of over 50 municipalities and nonprofits in the four western counties of Massachusetts, applauds the Administration for proposing over \$4 billion in investments to increase housing production and preserve current housing. We appreciate that the bill includes a wide range of policy proposals and meaningful investments that support varied housing types for all incomes, especially the following:

- Doubling the Affordable Housing Trust Fund from \$400M to \$800M. This flexible funding source is an especially useful tool for nonprofits, governments, or developers that create or preserve affordable housing.
- Allocating \$1.6B to repair, rehabilitate and modernize public housing, preserving the availability of this critical stock of affordable housing.
- Recognizing the need for complementary investment in infrastructure to support housing construction, via an additional \$175M for the HousingWorks Infrastructure program.
- Including targeted policy proposals to increase housing production like allowing accessory dwelling units to be built by right in single family zoning districts statewide, removing the patchwork of zoning barriers across the Commonwealth.

There are many more elements to the Housing Bond Bill, including the proposed implementation of policy changes and investment across all housing types and for all household incomes. We look forward to closely examining how it meets the needs of western Massachusetts and to advocating for our region as the bill moves through the legislature.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition.



Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition Members

City/Town

Amherst Affordable Housing Trust Fund
City of Chicopee
City of Easthampton
City of Greenfield
City of Holyoke
City of Northampton
City of Pittsfield
City of Springfield
City of Westfield
Egremont Housing Committee
Town of Amherst
Town of Great Barrington
Town of South Hadley
Town of West Springfield
Town of Williamstown

Advocacy and Supporting Services Organizations

CHAPA
Clinical & Support Options (CSO)
Community Action Pioneer Valley
DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services
Friends of the Homeless (CSO)
Hampden County Continuum of Care (COC)
MA Association of CDCs (MACDC)
Mental Health Association
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
(RAC-MA)
Springfield Partners for Community Action
Western Massachusetts Network to End
Homelessness

Affordable Housing Nonprofits & Community Development Corporations

Berkshire Housing Development Corporation
CDC of South Berkshire
Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
Construct Berkshires
Domus, Inc.
Franklin County CDC
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity
Hilltown CDC
Home City Development, Inc.
OneHolyoke CDC
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity
Quaboag Valley CDC
Revitalize CDC
Rural Development, Inc.
Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services
Valley CDC
Valley Opportunity Council
Way Finders

Regional Organizations and Housing Authorities

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Franklin County Regional Housing &
Redevelopment Authority
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Holyoke Housing Authority
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Springfield Housing Authority

