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Massachusetts Reaches Goal of Creating 1,000 New Units of Supportive Housing Almost Two Years Ahead of Schedule

Boston, Mass. (March 25, 2014) – The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has reached its goal of creating 1,000 new units of permanent supportive housing two years ahead of schedule, according to an announcement made in Haverhill today by Governor Deval Patrick. The administration also announced \$25 million in resources for 335 new units of supportive housing for projects funded through the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF), the Housing Innovations Fund (HIF), and other state resources.

“Governor Patrick, Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Aaron Gornstein, and the Commonwealth as a whole were very forward-thinking in setting the goal to create 1,000 new units of supportive housing,” said Roger Herzog, executive director of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) and the chair of the interagency working group that supported the initiative. “These new units of supportive housing will help seniors, veterans, homeless individuals and families, and persons with disabilities, among others, all of whom are aided by the services connected with this type of affordable housing.”

Supportive housing provides homes, as well as important stabilization services, to individuals and families that are homeless or facing homelessness, institutionalized or at-risk of institutionalization; people with disabilities and the elderly. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, three supportive housing programs – the Community-Based Housing program, the Facilities Consolidation Fund, and the Housing Innovations Fund – encourage the development of affordable housing for these populations. CEDAC is the program administrator for these initiatives, which received a new influx of state funds from the Housing Bond legislation that was passed and signed into law in November 2013.

Governor Patrick signed “An Act Relative to Community Housing and Services” with the goal of building 1,000 new permanent supportive housing units in March 2012. The act increases coordination and efficiency across eighteen (18) government housing and human services

agencies by requiring these agencies to commit to working together through a Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed in December 2012. Additionally, the legislation requires administrative action to promote supportive housing and to establish benchmarks to assess progress.

“Eighteen state agencies have been working together to coordinate efforts and today’s announcement reflects the creative thinking that has taken place across these agencies,” said Herzog. “Massachusetts has always been a leader in developing innovative strategies around affordable housing, and this is yet another example of it. We applaud the leadership of Governor Patrick, Undersecretary Gornstein, and my fellow agency heads who have worked hard to reach this goal so far ahead of schedule.”

The Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF) was developed in July 2013 to establish “a flexible method for funding affordable housing for low income families and individuals in the Commonwealth, particularly those most at-risk of becoming homeless,” according to the state budget language that created the fund. CEDAC is the trustee for these funds for DHCD, who is administering the project. Projects throughout Massachusetts communities will receive \$25 million through HPSTF, the Housing Innovations Fund, the Commonwealth’s longest-running supportive housing program, and other state resources.

“The new projects receiving state funds in today’s announcement will help to address homelessness among families throughout Massachusetts,” said Herzog. “This is a unique opportunity for nonprofit affordable housing developers to access these funds to create supportive housing units for vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, veterans, homeless families, and individuals with other special needs.”

About CEDAC

CEDAC is a public-private community development finance institution that provides financial resources and technical expertise for community-based and other nonprofit organizations engaged in effective community development in Massachusetts. CEDAC’s work supports three key building blocks of community development: affordable housing, workforce development, and early care and education. CEDAC is also active in national housing preservation policy research and development and is widely recognized as a leader in the non-profit community development industry. For additional information on CEDAC and their current projects, please visit www.cedac.org.

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