



United Communities Building Together
Comunidades Unidas Edificando Juntas

MACDC's *Campaign for Our Neighborhoods* The 2009-2010 Legislative Session

Massachusetts, like the entire country, is facing a serious economic crisis. This crisis is having a disproportionate impact on low and moderate income neighborhoods and families. These communities, which include urban, rural and suburban areas, are experiencing the highest rates of foreclosure, the steepest drops in home values, the highest rates of unemployment and neighborhood decline, and the greatest obstacles to safe and affordable housing. *Campaign for Our Neighborhoods*, MACDC's advocacy efforts for 2009-2010, sought to establish public policies that would mitigate the impact of the crisis, ensure that all communities have a fair opportunity to participate in the economic recovery, and prevent more boom-bust cycles like those that have previously devastated our communities. Specifically we worked to:

1. Protect tenants in foreclosed homes and promote long term, sustainable homeownership

An Act Relative to Stabilizing Communities, sponsored by Representative Kevin Honan and Senator Susan Ticker (Chapter 258 of the Acts of 2010) was signed into law on August 7, 2010 in the driveway of a formerly foreclosed home in Brockton, MA. MACDC, in coalition with CHAPA and others, helped pass this law that will:

- provide eviction protection to tenants in foreclosed properties who are in good standing and have paid their rent;
- increase the 90 day right to cure a delinquency to 150 days;
- provide a local option to exclude nonprofits from property taxes if they are acquiring foreclosed properties to provide affordable housing; and
- criminalize mortgage fraud.

2. Preserve and build quality rental housing

The foreclosure crisis highlighted the importance of maintaining and expanding the supply of high quality affordable housing. MACDC successfully worked in coalition to pass the so-called "Expiring Use bill" that provides the public with a Right of First Refusal to purchase and preserve affordable rental homes that are at risk. ***An Act Preserving Publicly Assisted Affordable Housing (Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2009) was signed into law November, 2009.*** We will advocate for the allocation of \$200 million in capital funds for affordable housing per year – up from \$168 million in FY 2010.

3. Strengthen locally owned businesses (*fully fund line item 7007-0334 at \$1 million in FY11*):

The small, locally owned businesses play a critical role in our communities yet are facing rising costs, declining sales, and tightening credit markets. MACDC and its members are committed to helping small businesses survive these tough times because they help create vibrant communities, expand wealth, create jobs and provide services. In April, 2010, the administration announced it would allocate \$1.2 million in both FY10 and FY11 for current grantees in the **Small Business Technical Assistance Provider Grant Program**. MACDC is grateful for the administration's commitment to this successful.

4. Strengthen community based development in our neighborhoods

The formal legal framework recognizing and supporting CDCs under state law has been updated with the inclusion of ***An Act to Strengthen Community Development in the Commonwealth***, S. 89 and H. 210 into the state's new economic development law (Chapter 240 Acts of 2010). Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Steven Walsh, lead sponsors of the CDC modernization bill, led the legislative efforts on behalf of CDCs across Massachusetts.



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

15 Court Square, Suite 600 | Boston, MA 02108
tel: 617.426.0303 | fax: 617.426.0344 | www.macdc.org

For more information about MACDC's past policy efforts, or the new initiatives being developed for the 2011-2012 session contact Allison Staton at 617/426-0303 Ext. 24 or allisons@macdc.org