



July 18, 2016

Catherine Racer  
MA Department of Housing and Community Development  
100 Cambridge Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Via email to [Catherine.racer@state.ma.us](mailto:Catherine.racer@state.ma.us)

RE: MACDC's Comments on Draft Allocation Plan for National Housing Trust Fund

Dear Ms. Racer:

MACDC is pleased to offer these comments on DHCD's Draft Allocation Plan for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). We are happy that HUD has allocated the funds under NHTF for 2016, and pleased that DHCD has developed its Draft Allocation Plan in such a thoughtful manner.

We concur with DHCD's plan to award the full 2016 MA NHTF allocation through a funding round which will be similar to the prior funding allocation rounds for the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF). Awards made under the HPSTF funding rounds were made to exceptional projects serving Extremely Low Income (ELI) and homeless households, many of them sponsored by MACDC Members. Additionally, combining the capital dollars with project-based state rental assistance along with \$1,500 per unit per year in funding for services represents a comprehensive approach to addressing the need for supportive housing.

We are also pleased that the NHTF funds will be matched by at least \$5 million in additional state bond funds, and that the Baker Administration's 5-year capital budget will increase the Commonwealth's spending on affordable housing in general, and supportive housing in particular, in the coming years. We hope HUD will approve the forward-thinking Allocation Plan proposed by DHCD.

If you have any questions about our comments, you can contact me at 617-379-5922 or at [joek@macdc.org](mailto:joek@macdc.org). You can also contact MACDC Senior Policy Advocate Don Bianchi at 617-379-5926 or at [donb@macdc.org](mailto:donb@macdc.org). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joe Kriesberg, President and CEO

Cc: Ayana Gonzalez, DHCD  
David Bryant, MACDC  
Don Bianchi, MACDC