



June 1, 2015

Senator Karen Spilka
Chairwoman, Senate Ways & Means Committee

Representative Brian Dempsey
Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Spilka and Chairman Dempsey:

On behalf of the MACDC Board of Directors and Membership we respectfully request that the 2016 Budget Conference Committee adopt the following House and Senate provisions that will help expand economic opportunity to families and communities across the Commonwealth:

- Small Business Technical Assistance program (SBTA) line item 7002-0040; House funding level: \$2,000,000.
- Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) line item 7004-9024; House funding level: \$90,931,597.
- Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF); House funding level of \$11,500,000.
- Foreclosure Counseling (7006-0011); Senate funding level of \$2,650,000.
- HomeBase (7004-0108; House funding level: \$31,250,331) and RAFT (7004-9316; Senate funding level: \$13,000,000) with Senate approved language that enables forward funding for these programs.
- Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) line item 7004-9030; Senate funding level of \$4,750,000, with Senate approved language to facilitate increasing the number of accessible and affordable homes and greater flexibility for persons with disabilities.
- Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) line item 7004-3036; House funding level of \$2,641,992.
- Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund; House proposed consolidated net surplus budget funds transfer of \$10,000,000.

Finally, MACDC urges the conferees to reconcile differences and support an expansion of the Massachusetts' Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). One of MACDC's core goals is to promote asset development through policies that enable families and individuals to access greater economic opportunities by growing and protecting their financial assets and capabilities. By increasing the state's EITC, the economic benefits to the families we serve will increase significantly. In addition, the Commonwealth will see positive health, education, and social outcomes for lower-income workers and their children.

As always, we thank you and remain grateful for your strong support of our sector and our communities, and we look forward to working with you to advance additional shared priorities throughout this legislative session.

Sincerely,



Joseph Kriesberg
President & CEO



David A. Bryant
Director of Advocacy

Cc: Hon. Sal DiDomenico
Hon. Steve Kulik
Hon. Todd Smola
Hon. Vinny diMacedo