



2014 Policy Agenda

MACDC's 2014 Policy Agenda seeks to build communities across the Commonwealth where people of different incomes, ethnicities, races and backgrounds can thrive. This year, our focus is on the following:

1. Support Small Business Development

MACDC advocates that the Legislature restore full funding to the Small Business Technical Assistance program to its pre-recession level of \$2 million in FY 2015. In 2006, the Legislature created the Small Business Technical Assistance Program to provide technical assistance and training programs to businesses with 20 employees or fewer. In FY 2013, the program achieved a tremendous return on its \$700,000 investment by helping 910 businesses.

2. Fully Recapitalize the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund

This fund is essential for assessing, cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated properties and is a national success story. However, it ran out of money in June of 2013. We are grateful that the Legislature appropriated \$15 million recently to get the Fund operating again, but MassDevelopment needs an additional \$45 million to meet the substantial demand for this program.

3. Raise the Minimum wage

MACDC supports raising the minimum to at least \$10.50 an hour and indexing future increases to inflation; raising the minimum tipped wage for restaurant workers, who haven't gotten a raise in fifteen years and guaranteeing earned sick time for all workers.

4. Zoning Reform

MACDC supports passage of **An Act Promoting the Planning and Development of Sustainable Communities (H1859)** to update our state's outmoded zoning, subdivision, and planning laws. This legislation, recently reported out by the Joint Committee on Municipalities, will encourage balanced development, housing and land preservation that will meet the needs of the Commonwealth's communities now and for the next generation.

5. Increase MRVP funding in State budget to \$87.5 million per year from its FY14 level of \$57.5 million, as an essential component of the Commonwealth's efforts to prevent homelessness

6. Increase capital budget for privately-owned affordable housing development to \$132 million per year by FY15, from its FY14 level of \$895 million.

For more information on MACDC's Legislative Agenda or our public policy work in general, please contact Joseph Kriesberg at joek@macdc.org or Pam Bender at pamelab@macdc.org.