



Support An Act to Provide Opportunities for All (H. 3983)

H. 3983, An Act to Provide Opportunities to All, the Baker-Polito Administration's economic development proposal includes a variety of policies and programs that will prepare low- and moderate-income communities for success by building the capacity of both local government and community-based organizations with multi-year funding commitments to:

- The Mass Works Infrastructure Program (\$500 million)
- The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (\$75 million)
- The Smart Growth Trust Fund (\$25 million)
- Transformative Development Initiative (\$50 million)

CDCs recognize the fundamental, economic and social interests that impact low- and moderate-income families in rural areas, small cities and urban neighborhoods. The dedicated funding proposed for these programs will be an equitable investment in the Commonwealth's citizens and communities that will help create jobs, grow local businesses, and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Additional Steps to Narrow the Opportunity Divide

There are two areas where we think the Legislature could make the Administration's proposal stronger.

Small Business Lending Program: We request \$5 million in FY 17 in new capital funding to support a matching grant program for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and state certified CDCs that make loans to small and micro businesses. A new matching grant program will leverage federal money and help hundreds of small businesses across the state.

MA Food Trust: We request \$10 million authorization over 5 years for capital expenses for the Massachusetts Food Trust, a program that was established in law in 2014, and never funded. Limited public financing in other states has leveraged \$9-15 dollars in private and federal funds for every \$1 of state funding, while expanding access to healthy foods – and new jobs – for lower income communities

These programs will drive equitable economic development across the Commonwealth. CDCs are committed to working with the Legislature and the Baker Administration to realize these shared goals and to work collaboratively to narrow this opportunity divide.

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