



November 15, 2021

Chairman Aaron Michlewitz
Chairman Michael Rodrigues
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

On behalf of the Board and Members of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, I want to thank the leaders of both the House and the Senate passing proposed ARPA spending plans that will accelerate our recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and build a more prosperous and equitable Commonwealth that is also healthier and greener. We are excited to work with our partners in state and local government to implement these exciting and vital programs.

As you work to finalize an ARPA spending plan that reconciles the House and Senate versions, we are writing today to offer our recommendations for producing the strongest possible bill for enactment.

Affordable Housing: Both the House and Senate have proposed robust plans for investing in affordable housing across the Commonwealth. We urge the Conference Committee to put forward the largest possible funding package for affordable housing by adopting the following:

- \$125 million for Rental Production and Preservation (Senate version)
- \$100 million for Homeowner Assistance (House version)
- \$125 million for Homeownership production (Senate version)
- \$10 million clean energy retrofits of affordable housing (Senate version)

We know that the Commonwealth needs as much affordable housing as we can possibly build, and we absolutely have a pipeline of projects ready to use these dollars. We also support language that prioritizes the construction of affordable housing that is climate smart – both resilient to climate change and consistent with the state’s goals for reducing carbon and other dangerous emissions.

Small Business Support: Both the House and Senate have allocated substantial funding to support small businesses struggling to survive during this pandemic. We recommend that you adopt the funding level of \$60 million as proposed in the House version of the legislation. We also recommend language that emphasizes racial equity and directs dollars to those most in need, while giving the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation enough flexibility to design an effective and impactful program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kriesberg
President & CEO