

# **PATH Grants Awarded to Chelsea, Arlington, Charlton, and Mashpee**

## **DHCD Awarded \$70,000 to Four Communities Across Massachusetts**

Boston – Tuesday, May 26, 2015 – Today the Department of Housing and Community Development finalized Planning Assistances Toward Housing (PATH) grants to Arlington, Charlton, Chelsea, and Mashpee totaling \$70,000.

Arlington received \$15,000 to construct a Housing Production plan – allowing Arlington to retain local control over development while ensuring that affordable housing is available to residents. Charlton and Mashpee received \$20,000 and \$10,000, respectively, for housing feasibility studies to help develop local land. Chelsea received \$25,000 for community outreach and zoning changes to create housing near transit developments.

“Assisting cities and towns as they take steps to develop their land and leverage their local resources is one of the most effective choices we can make,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Focusing on locally-directed growth and affordable housing will help supplement local aid increases in this year’s budget, and allowing municipalities to direct their development ensures that it is built in a way that supports local goals and meets local needs.”

“Helping communities and facilitating smart, sustainable, and effective development is a critical part of our support for towns across the commonwealth,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “I look forward to continued partnerships as the Governor and I work to ensure that municipalities are able to direct their growth and build on previous investments.”

“Setting up communities for success is a crucial part of our economic development plan, and ensuring that municipalities are able to meet local needs is a vital part of the process” said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash. “Effective development requires supporting and empowering communities working to find innovative solutions that build on community strengths, previous investments, and regional specialties.”

“Building affordable, dense housing near existing infrastructure and development increases access to jobs and services for a range of families,” said Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Crystal Kornegay. “PATH grants allow us to support forward-thinking communities using assets that are already in place.”

The Planning Assistance Toward Housing (PATH) program manages \$600,000 to help communities expand housing opportunities through community initiated activities on municipally-owned sites; changes to land use and zoning; planning for housing/ mixed-use development in specific geographic areas; and the implementation of strategies identified in Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)-approved Housing Production Plans (HPP).

PATH is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Path Review Committee (PRC) which consists of Mass Housing, Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and MassDevelopment. The grants are competitive in nature-scored by DHCD staff and sent to the PRC for final approval. DHCD accepts applications on a rolling basis.