

Governor Baker Signs Economic Development Plan

Economic Development Plan for the Commonwealth Will Create Opportunities for All

Boston –December 23, 2015 – Today Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito endorsed and signed the Commonwealth’s economic development plan, a strategic policy document that will guide the administration’s economic development strategy.

“This economic development plan is an important statement of our administration’s priorities and values,” said Governor Baker. “It creates a framework for connecting residents across the state to economic opportunity, and for unlocking new business growth by pressing Massachusetts’ competitive advantage on a number of fronts.”

“Our administration has prioritized community development across the Commonwealth,” said Lieutenant Governor Polito. “This economic development plan reflects our commitment to promoting vibrant communities, and spurring new growth, Cape Cod to the Berkshires.”

The Commonwealth’s economic development plan advances policies that extend new economic opportunities to all the state’s citizens, and its regions. The economic development plan sets a policy framework that will steer the work of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. Key priorities of the Commonwealth’s economic development plan include: supporting workforce development strategies that close the skills gap, and connect citizens to economic opportunity; promoting vibrant communities and regions; advancing the development of key industry clusters, and harnessing cluster development to drive job growth in the Commonwealth’s regions; and sharpening the Commonwealth’s competitive position through regulatory reform, and efforts to lower key business costs, such as energy costs.

Massachusetts law requires each new gubernatorial administration to publish an economic development strategy within a year of taking office. The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development will use the policy framework set by this plan to develop and shape specific initiatives that will respond to issues, themes, and priorities highlighted in this plan.

“Over the past year, I have met with residents, business owners and local officials, from communities from Williamstown to Provincetown,” said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash. “I am proud that their priorities and aspirations are reflected in this economic development plan, which will advance prosperity for citizens, growth for businesses, and vitality for communities.”

The Commonwealth’s economic development plan is the result of one year of robust public engagement. The Baker-Polito administration hosted fourteen public listening sessions across the state, and engaged in thousands of conversations with residents, business owners, municipal officials, state legislators, academic experts, and industry officials. The Governor’s Economic Development Planning Council unanimously endorsed the plan on December 9. A copy of the plan is available on [the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development’s website](#).