

For Immediate Release - August 10, 2016

# **Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$61,500 in Housing Grants to Four Communities**

## **Billerica, Charlton, Mendon, and Rockland will use funding to further planning and housing efforts**

Boston – August 08, 2016 – Today the Baker-Polito Administration announced \$61,500 in Planning Assistance Towards Housing (PATH) grant funding for Billerica, Charlton, Mendon, and Rockland, to help these communities meet their housing needs. These four communities join 20 others that have received a PATH grant award since the program's authorization in 2014.

Billerica and Mendon received \$15,000 and \$21,500 respectively, to conduct housing feasibility studies.

Charlton received \$10,000 to conduct a senior housing market study to help the town understand its current and future needs, and plan its growth accordingly.

Rockland received \$15,000 to help plan for a Chapter 40R Smart Growth district, allowing for dense, mixed-use construction near existing infrastructure.

"Working with communities to address local needs and plan for future home building will help address local and regional housing requirements," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This local-state partnership will drive economic growth, job creation, and make Massachusetts a better place to live and work."

"PATH grants provide effective solutions to local development barriers, helping communities plan for their future and proactively address potential problems," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "Investing in municipal planning efforts empowers communities while ensuring that the Commonwealth is prepared for future success."

"Long-term economic growth requires available housing that seniors and working families can afford," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash. "PATH helps to identify and address these local needs while prioritizing local input and preserving community character."

"Evaluating present and future needs will help these four municipalities determine the best path towards sustainable housing development," said Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Chrystal Kornegay. "PATH investments help to reveal opportunities for locally-directed construction and growth."

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) oversees the PATH program, a \$600,000 fund that helps communities expand housing opportunities through community-based activities on municipally-owned sites; changes to land use and zoning; planning for housing and mixed-use development in specific geographic areas; and the implementation of strategies identified in DHCD-approved Housing Production Plans. The fund, authorized in 2014, has awarded \$453,000 supporting multi-family housing development efforts in 24 communities.