



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2016-14

To: Local Housing Authorities

From: Sarah Glassman, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing & Rental Assistance

Date: May 19, 2016

Re: Regional Capital Assistance Team (RCAT) Program Guidelines

DHCD is pleased to report that the RCAT Program is well on its way to launching. The RCAT Host Housing Authorities (Leominster, Chelmsford, and Taunton Housing Authorities) have hired their 3 RCAT directors and more than half of the project managers. In the coming months, following the MassNAHRO spring conference, the Host Housing Authorities will be reaching out to all participating Housing Authorities in order to schedule an initial site visit to formally introduce RCAT staff. Per Section 26C of M.G.L. Chapter 121B, all Authorities with fewer than 500 state-aided units are required to participate in the RCAT program, except for those that were granted a waiver by DHCD. At this time, RCAT services are not available to LHAs with more than 500 state-aided units.

With this Notice, DHCD is publishing and transmitting the RCAT Program Guidelines, which were developed in collaboration with the Host Housing Authority Executive Directors. These Guidelines clarify the scope, roles, policies, procedures, and expectations for the RCAT Program and include, as an appendix, the DHCD-approved Terms of Service that must be signed by all participating Housing Authorities and their respective Host Housing Authority. Please review these Guidelines prior to the first meeting with your RCAT and prior to any further discussions about the program with your Boards, residents, or other stakeholders.

By September of this year, the RCATs will be in the field conducting needs assessments and drafting capital plans. Soon after, they will begin assuming project management duties for small projects (less than \$25,000 in construction costs). See the Guidelines for a full roll-out schedule. In the meantime, all participating Housing Authorities should consider which of their Board members might like to run for election to the RCAT Advisory Board for their region that will begin meeting quarterly this fall. Nine seats are up for election in each region. DHCD will be announcing the call for nominations via separate Notice in June.

If you have questions about the content of the RCAT Program Guidelines, please email Roberta.Strongin@state.ma.us or call 617-573-1189.