

Governor Malloy's New Housing Initiatives – FY 2015

The FY 14-15 biennial budget invested significant resources into affordable housing, bringing the total commitment throughout the Governor's administration to over half a billion dollars. Investments over the biennium include: (a) \$136 million for affordable housing; (b) \$60 million to preserve and upgrade public housing as years two and three of a ten year commitment; (c) \$20 million for 100 units of supportive housing, including \$1 million in annualized rental assistance subsidies and \$1 million for services; (d) \$500,000 for rapid re-housing; (e) \$1 million for Incentive Housing Zones; and (f) implementation of the new Department of Housing.

The Governor's budget for FY 2015 continues to build on these investments:

- **110 New Units of Scattered Site Supportive Housing.** The budget includes an annualized \$2.2 million for 110 rental assistance program certificates and related supportive services. These funds are part of the Governor's larger mental health initiative that includes funding for an anti-stigma campaign, specialized crisis intervention training for law enforcement, and residential and transitional services for high risk populations.
- **\$6.5 Million in Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Renters.** The Governor's budget provides \$6.5 million to reopen intake to the Renter's Rebate program. This program provides a direct, partial reimbursement of rent and utility bills of income-eligible elderly and totally disabled renters. Rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single individuals.
- **Investing in Housing Authority Capacity Building.** The Governor's budget funds two positions in the Department of Housing (DOH) to provide individualized technical assistance to housing authorities so they may develop and enhance their ability to address housing needs in their communities.
- **Prioritizing Security Deposit Assistance to Homeless Veterans.** The state's Security Deposit Guarantee Program aids certain eligible individuals and families in securing housing by guaranteeing a security deposit to landlords of up to two month's rent, eliminating the need for an actual payment to be administered. The Governor's budget provides \$50,000 to increase the availability of security deposit assistance for homeless veterans, and establishes a priority for veterans under the program.
- **Enhancing Residential Options and Supportive Services for Veterans.** The Governor's budget provides \$500,000 to begin work on additional housing for veterans on the Department of Veterans' Affairs Rocky Hill campus. In addition, almost \$300,000 is dedicated to provide supportive services for 74 units of housing dedicated to veterans in Victory Gardens in Newington.
- **\$1.65 million for Rapid Re-Housing and Rental Assistance Program (RAP) certificates.** The Governor's budget provides \$1 million for RAP certificates and \$650,000 for rapid rehousing initiatives in the Department of Housing through carry forward funding from FY 2014. Rapid rehousing provides housing relocation and stabilization services and short-term financial assistance to help homeless families move as quickly as possible in permanent housing.
- **\$7 million for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).** The Governor's budget adds \$7 million in capital funding to support TOD activities along the new CTfastrak and New Haven commuter rail line.