

HOUSE No. 1222

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to community housing and services..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of
2 Housing and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive
3 Office of Veterans Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the
4 Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Developmental Services, the
5 Department of Mental Health, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of
6 Public Health, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the
7 Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Massachusetts Housing
8 Finance Agency, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the Community Economic
9 Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a memorandum of
10 understanding which shall include an action plan to coordinate the procurement and availability
11 of community based supportive services, capital subsidies, and operating subsidies for new and
12 existing housing available to low and extremely low income residents to be known as the
13 community housing and services memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of

14 understanding shall identify and resolve barriers and reduce fragmentation for the provision of
15 community based supportive services and affordable housing.

16 The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with
17 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Joint Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on
18 Elder Affairs, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the
19 Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later
20 than March 15, 2010. Said memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program
21 that creates no less than one thousand units of permanent supported housing that includes
22 coordinated operating, capital subsidies and voluntary community based supportive services
23 within three years of enactment of this act, provided that the aforementioned agencies shall
24 assess the need for permanent supportive housing to serve the Commonwealth's homeless or at-
25 risk of homelessness, people with disabilities, and elders and shall establish a long range target to
26 produce new supportive housing opportunities to meet the Commonwealth's need.

27 Community based supportive services shall include, but need not be limited to: resident
28 service coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link low and extremely low
29 income tenants with any services necessary to maintain their tenancy, or direct community-based
30 social services or other services necessary to maintain a successful tenancy, provided that a
31 tenant's receipt of services shall not be an eligibility requirement or a requirement of maintaining
32 a tenancy under the plan.

33 The plan shall establish benchmarks to assess financial savings to the Commonwealth
34 resulting from the avoidance of institutionalization, shelter, or nursing care due to the availability
35 of community based housing support services.

36 SECTION 2. For a grant program to be known as the community housing supportive
37 services action grant, to be administered by the Interagency Council on Housing and
38 Homelessness to support new and existing low and extremely low income housing that is
39 developed or provided with service coordination in accordance with the community housing and
40 services memorandum of understanding; provided that applicants seeking to use said funds in
41 conjunction with a new housing development receiving funds authorized under chapter 119 of
42 the acts of 2008, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program or section 8 of the United States
43 Housing Act of 1937, as amended, shall do so by submitting a simultaneous application for said
44 funds; provided that housing that requires a tenant to receive social services to maintain the
45 housing shall not be eligible; provided further that no greater than four per cent of the funds may
46 be used to administer said
47 program.....\$2,040,000