

## \$90M awarded to communities to house homeless families

Four western Mass communities among the 16 to receive funds

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BOSTON, Mass. (WWLP) – Governor Baker awarded more than \$90 million in state and federal funds to help cities and towns build affordable housing units. The money will help 16 Massachusetts communities create and maintain more than 1,400 rental units.

Although 30 percent of the funds will go to Boston, four western Massachusetts communities qualify for the money: Belchertown, Great Barrington, Orange and Springfield, which will have three housing projects. Governor Baker said expanding affordable housing will get families out of homeless hotels and into more stable living conditions.

Baker told 22News there were roughly 1,500 families living in homeless hotels and motels when he first took office in January 2015. Currently, that number is just below 330 families statewide. "Our goal is to try to get that number down to zero," Baker added. "We said we'd get it down by the end of our administration. I think we're going to be way ahead of that."

The Baker administration plans to spend \$1 billion over five years to expand and preserve affordable housing units.

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