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Gov. Charlie Baker to push for more affordable units

Marie Szaniszlo Tuesday, August 16, 2016

23rd Annual Oldtime Baseball Game St. Peter's Field Cambridge Boston Herald **Herald.com**



Credit: Nicolaus Czarnecki

SETTING ROOTS: Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Chrysal Kornegay speaks during a press conference at the Young Men's Christian Union Building on Boylston Street as Gov. Charlie Baker looks on.

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Gov. Charlie Baker is launching a major push to create, renovate or preserve 1,420 rental units across the state, the vast majority of which will be affordable housing, including nearly 500 units in Boston alone.

The Baker administration is awarding more than \$59 million in state and federal housing subsidies for 26 projects across 16 communities.

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The administration also is awarding more than \$31 million in state and federal low-income housing tax credits.

“We’re building more inclusive communities and providing pathways to better economic and social mobility for working families and individuals that are most vulnerable, to reach stability and end cycles of generational poverty and homelessness,” Baker said at 48 Boylston St., the site of a historic rehabilitation project in Chinatown for formerly homeless residents.

The administration prioritized applications that included a 10-percent allotment for individuals and families who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless. But the units will house a variety of people, officials said. Four projects will be focused on senior housing, five will provide supportive services to residents, and all 26 will include affordable units.

“Working families need income security in order to achieve economic prosperity,” said Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Chrystal Kornegay. “Through these affordable housing awards, we are creating new opportunities for families to sink roots into their communities and thrive.”

The largest projects are:

- Maple Commons Apartments in Springfield, which will offer 173 fully rehabilitated affordable housing units.
- Quincy Tower Apartments, a Chinatown housing preservation project that will include 161 affordable housing units.
- Christopher Heights, a Belchertown assisted-living project that will feature 83 rental units with services for frail seniors, including 43 affordable units.

In addition to the two Chinatown projects, the other Boston projects are 74 units at Wayne at Schuyler, representing Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan; 61 units at 132 Chestnut Hill Ave. in Brighton; 49 units at Walker Park Apartments in Egleston Square; 36 units at Harmon Apartments in Dorchester; 32 units at Paris Village in East Boston; and 27 units at the Residences at Fairmount Station in Hyde Park.

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