

WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY AWARDED REGIONAL DESIGNATION



Worcester, MA, October 29, 2018 — The Worcester Housing Authority (WHA) is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has awarded the designation for the Regional Capital Assistance Team (RCAT) program to the WHA.

The RCAT program provides technical assistance to assist smaller housing authorities in conducting physical property assessments, planning for and executing capital plans, developing maintenance plans and managing projects. This designation covers all of central and western Massachusetts totaling over 63 authorities that the WHA will assist.

"This is a tremendous award for the WHA. We have been working very hard to find ways to expand our services, not only in Worcester, but in the Commonwealth. We are only one of three housing authorities in the state to have this designation, which speaks volumes of the team we have here and the confidence DHCD has in us."

— Alex Corrales, WHA Executive director

The WHA will cover various counties with their assistance including Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester County. Approximately

\$10,000,000 per year in capital improvements are made to a pool of 8,000 apartments in 300 developments across this region.

Janelle Chan, Undersecretary for DHCD, noted that the Department was "...impressed by the WHA's depth of experience in executing complex capital projects and assisting other housing authorities in the region."

The Undersecretary went on to say "We are excited to capture the lessons the WHA has learned through its management agreements and force account program and to leverage your expertise to the benefit of many more housing authorities."

The grant award is \$2,132,546 and officially begins in January 2019 for a period of 2.5 years.

"We are excited to see how not only how we are able to provide assistance to other agencies, but also how we may be able to expand some of our current programs to assist these authorities,"

— Joseph Carlson, WHA Board Chairman

The WHA operates approximately 3000 apartments throughout the City of Worcester at 24 separate developments along with over 4300 leased housing vouchers. It is the 2nd largest housing authority in New England.