

## **Housing Bond Bill signed into law by Governor Patrick**

Governor Deval Patrick recently signed a housing bond bill (H3727) into law which will authorize \$1.4 billion in housing assistance in 11 new line items, and funds these through a program of bond authorizations entitled "Housing Production, Preservation, Modification and Neighborhood Development Loan Act of 2013." \$500M is for the renovation, remodeling, and reconstruction of existing housing; \$305M will capitalize the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; \$135M will fund the Housing Stabilization and Investment Trust Fund; \$100M for the Capital Improvement and Preservation Trust Fund; and the remaining \$280M will cover six other housing-related programs that provide various forms of loan guarantees and state financial assistance.

Three sets of funding directly relate to people with disabilities:

\$55M will be allocated to a program of loan guarantees or interest subsidies to assist homeowners with physical disabilities with making home modifications to their primary residence to allow them to live independently in the community. The money will be available on a sliding scale that relates the homeowner's income and assets to the cost of the modification. Both the MA Commission for the Blind (MCB) and the MA Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) will assist in the development of guidelines for this program.

\$47M will be allocated to loans for the development of community-based housing or supportive housing for individuals with intellectual disabilities or mental illness through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Preference will be given to non-profit organizations by prioritizing funds for integrated housing as defined by agencies such as the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), DHCD, and MRC. 10M of the total will be allocated to a pilot program to serve mentally ill homeless individuals.

\$38M will be loaned out for the development and redevelopment of community-based housing or supportive housing for persons with disabilities who are institutionalized or at risk of being institutionalized who are not eligible under the first program mentioned above (\$55M). This housing will be developed in conjunction with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and MRC.

The law directs the Office of the Treasurer to commence the sale of these bonds to allow for the housing creation and rehabilitation noted above H3727 was an Arc legislative priority for the 2013-2014 session. The Arc is pleased that the Legislature and the Governor decided to make this important investment in the housing needs of the people of Massachusetts.