



## community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

### **In the midst of the pandemic the CDP remains “Open for business”**

Since March 14<sup>th</sup> we have all been adapting to the Coronavirus pandemic as we respond to the public health crisis and the growing economic impact on our community.

While circumstances will evolve, at the CDP we have identified three priorities that will frame our ongoing response to the effects of the pandemic.

**First, we are continuing to do our work** while fully protecting the safety of our staff members and all the people with whom we work. As a result, most of our staff are now working from home and we have cancelled or postponed all public events, trainings, workshops and in-person consultations until further notice.

**Our second priority is to help our business clients and residents.** Thus far we have:

- Implemented a **moratorium on evictions** through June 30<sup>th</sup> from our affordable rental homes for non-payment of rent;
- Allowed for **interest only payments** on our small business loans through July 31<sup>st</sup>;
- **Continued to conduct one-on-one business assistance** via video conferencing and telephone;
- **Contacted all residents** to assess their needs and ensure them of the stability of their housing;
- Held an **on-line meeting with our business clients from the restaurant and food sectors** to determine how best to assist them during this time.

**Our third priority is to communicate the needs of our community to state and federal advocates and our elected officials** and to advocate for special public policy initiatives that protect low- and moderate-income residents and small business owners who are most vulnerable during a crisis like this.

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, CEO Jay Coburn met with State Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Sarah Peake and shared with them the impacts this crisis is having on our small business clients and residents. In addition, immediately following the Governor’s directive to shut down non-essential businesses, Jay worked closely with The Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), small business technical assistance providers and affordable housing agencies from across the Commonwealth to develop a **Call To Action** for state and federal leaders to address the economic fallout from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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The CDP and advocates from across the state have called for the following actions:

- \$150 million investment in loans, grants, and technical assistance to help small businesses survive and recover from this economic crisis, especially those businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, women, and low- or moderate-income people;
- Creation of a Massachusetts COVID-19 Small Business Response Task Force to guide the ongoing response to this crisis and consider other initiatives to help small businesses through this crisis;
- Expanded unemployment insurance criteria to cover currently ineligible business owners, such as sole proprietors, independent contractors and micro businesses;
- Short-term eviction moratorium to keep people housed during this public health crisis;
- At least \$25 million in emergency funding to help tenants impacted by the COVID-19 crisis pay their rent;
- Special initiatives to help nonprofit organizations, including community-based cultural organizations, youth programs, CDCs, and other critical local organizations.

We know this is hitting our beloved communities hard. We will continue to evolve as this pandemic dictates and we will continue to work with our business clients and residents to ensure we are doing all we can to help them through this challenging time.