

DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT, 2018

The six towns of Martha's Vineyard established the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority through State public charter in 1986 in response to the Island's growing need for stable year-round community housing. The Island-wide Housing Forum of 2000 resulted in several significant housing efforts including the six-town agreement to proportionately share the administrative costs of the Housing Authority. Fully funded by the towns since 2005, the staff of the Housing Authority collaborates with town, state, and island-wide efforts to provide year-round rentals, rental assistance and homelessness prevention; homebuyer training, lottery support and affordability monitoring; and advocacy and planning for future housing program development, management and support.

2018 saw the Housing Authority oversee the rent-up of nine new rentals developed at Scotts Grove by the Island Housing Trust and the Town of West Tisbury bringing to ninety-five year-round apartments the total managed by the DCRHA on fifteen properties in five towns. Each rental effort includes initial and annual income and tenant certifications, apartment inspections and compliance with multiple funding source requirements and Fair Housing strictures. That the Scotts Grove offer generated over two hundred inquiries and ninety applications is testimony to the continued displacement of year-round renters at all incomes due to increased demand for seasonal rentals and second home sales. Much needed development of new rentals at Kuen's Way in Tisbury and Meshacket Road in Edgartown continues with Chilmark also beginning planning for year-round housing development at Peaked Hill and West Tisbury considering a two-unit effort on Old Courthouse Road.

Island towns dedicate Community Preservation Act funding to the Rental Assistance program administered by the Housing Authority which helps stabilize an annual average of sixty-five working island households who can afford at least half the cost of a market rental. Since 2002, the Housing Authority has worked with over three hundred tenant households who have utilized Rental Assistance for an average of just under three years with two hundred and sixty landlords across the island's six towns. The Housing Authority provides each town's housing and Community Preservation committee figures of usage, need, cost and landlord availability necessary for thorough deliberation before Town meeting funding votes.

Island-wide, the Housing Authority provides income certifications and administrative assistance for town programs such as accessory apartments, resident homesite subdivisions and the Town of Tisbury's new multi-family density allowance; maintains a rental housing waitlist numbering over two hundred households; and partners with the Housing Assistance Corporation, The Resource Inc, the County Manager's office and other organizations that offer assistance with rent, utilities, emergency support or apartment rehabilitation to island tenants and their landlords. A note of additional thanks to the Tower Foundation whose support allows several island households to weather

financial transitions in preservation of their year-round rental situations.

The Housing Authority's work on homeownership in 2018 included a lottery for sale of two homes developed by the Island Housing Trust for the Town of Aquinnah including Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing, homebuyer training, applicant certification and lottery agency; preparation with the Town of Edgartown for development and lottery of a community ownership opportunity on Chappaquiddick in 2019; service as affordability monitor for properties in six towns including five affordable home re-finance and re-sale efforts this past year; twenty-two referrals through Edgartown's Demolition Delay by-law; and maintenance of the Homebuyer Clearinghouse used to publicize homebuyer opportunities and currently numbering just under four hundred island households.

The staff of the Housing Authority is available to work on individual and community housing needs and opportunities at its office at 21 Mechanic St. off State Road in Vineyard Haven which is also home to the Island Housing Trust. For more information please stop by, call (508) 693-4419 or check our website at <https://housingauthoritymarthasvineyard.org/>

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