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## TOWN OF CHILMARK CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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March 29, 2016

Chilmark Planning Board  
401 Middle Road  
P.O. Box 119  
Chilmark, MA 02535

Mr. Adam Turner  
Executive Director  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Adam,

The six towns of Martha's Vineyard would like to develop Housing Production Plans. The Island community has a long history in these efforts and recently the towns have played a key role in efforts such as the 2013 MV Housing Needs Assessment, and the 2014 Zoning Analysis for Affordable and Community Housing on Martha's Vineyard. Recently the island town zoning boards have created and chartered an island wide planning group to address affordable housing issues. It is felt that that we can only address these issues island wide.

The Affordable and Community Housing needs of our Island community particularly for those individuals and families earning below 80% of the Area Median Income and the need for year-round rental housing are well documented. The present and future housing needs of our community are critical as the Island faces a growing aging population on fixed incomes, an increase of individuals and families living in poverty, as well as a continued need for affordable year-round workforce housing. While it affordable housing for purchase is almost impossible, affordable housing for year-round rental is impossible.

For the last fifteen years much has been accomplished by the six towns and Island non-profits to respond to the Affordable and Community housing needs of the Island community. However, we continue to fall behind as pressure on the availability of non-market-rate housing continues to grow, due to changes in demographics, service needs, a shrinking middle class, and the continued high cost of real estate. Much more work is needed to adequately address the present and future Affordable and Community Housing needs of the Island particularly the 65 plus aging demographic.

The Town of Chilmark requests funding to complete production plan for our Town. Some data and background materials have been completed and require minor updating for our use. In addition there is mapping and other information available.

Work is required to complete the inventory and other statistical analysis. In addition once that is

completed we need assistance to determine the focus and themes of our plan. We also are keen to develop real goals and objectives including targets to achieve these. We can develop longer and more detailed work programs once funding amounts have been indicated.

The provision of housing is a critical issue to our issue and our Town. We look forward to working with you and making real progress towards addressing these issues. We also note that we intend to use these plans along with the other towns to achieve true island wide solutions.

Thank you for your consideration