

DATE: October 19, 2023

TO: Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

FROM: Chilmark Housing Committee

SUBJECT: CPA Affordable Housing Funds – Rental Assistance Program

The Chilmark Housing Committee is requesting that the CPC consider and recommend to voters at the Annual Town Meeting in 2024 the replenishment of the CPA-funded Rental Assistance Program with \$100,000.

Background

The Town created this program in 2002 to motivate the conversion of seasonal rental properties in Chilmark to year-round affordable rentals. Over that past twenty (20) years the Town has voted generously to continue the support for the Rental Assistance Program, providing much needed rental opportunities to families through a program administered by the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority.

Currently there are four properties participating, providing housing for single parent with two children, single adult, two parents with two children, and a couple. The monthly total rent subsidy is \$2,495. As of the end of August 2023, the balance of designated available CPA funds was approximately \$24,590, which should carry the program through the end of this FY.

Our last request was three (3) years ago. Our request this year is \$100,000 (as was requested in FY21). If approved, this will allow for a minimum of two (2) years coverage, with additional margin if another landlord chooses to participate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Feiner

Jim Feiner, Chair
Chilmark Housing Committee.

Chilmark Community Preservation Committee **Application for CPA Funds**

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Date:

Project Title: **Chilmark Rental Assistance Program**

Applicant/Contact Person:

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Project Category: **Community Housing:** The Rental Assistance Program is funded by the Town and administered by Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA). The Program offers a range of support for qualified landlords and tenants for year-round affordable rentals. It serves up to 100% Area Median Income (AMI) tenants in Chilmark.

Funding Scope: The request for funding is \$100,000. This will provide a minimum of two (2) years support with the possibility of increasing the number of participating landlords in the program.

The Town's contribution will never be more than 50% of a monthly affordable rent. A tenant is annually certified to ensure they remain qualified to participate in the program. The tenant's portion of the rent will be a minimum of 50%.

Goals: To continue to support year-round affordable rental opportunities in Chilmark.

Community Need and Support: The Vineyard continues to have a crisis in available year-round rental housing at all income levels. All six (6) towns participate in the Rental Assistance Program, providing much needed rental opportunities Island-wide.

Timing: **The Rental Assistance Program is for year-round rentals and follows the FY calendar.**

Other Information: **The Program is an essential support for affordable rental opportunities in Chilmark. Over the past twenty (20) years the Town has voted generously to continue the support for the Program, providing much needed housing to individuals and families.**

Permits: **There are no specific permitting requirements for the Program. However, the property for rent is inspected annually for compliance with MA law.**