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## **MassHousing Approves \$50,000 for Affordable Sober Housing in Fall River**

*Funding will help renovate and preserve 28 units of sober housing for women while leveraging a matching \$50,000 grant from a private foundation*

BOSTON – February 12, 2009 – MassHousing has approved \$50,000 in funding for the renovation and preservation of affordable sober housing for women in Fall River. The MassHousing funding will also leverage a matching \$50,000 grant from a private foundation.

The MassHousing grant for Steppingstone, Inc. of Fall River, will come from the Center for Community Recovery Innovations, Inc. (CCRI), a nonprofit subsidiary corporation of MassHousing that creates and preserves affordable sober housing in Massachusetts for recovering substance abusers. CCRI to date has awarded more than \$4 million in grants for sober housing for more than 1,000 units of substance-free housing in more than two dozen communities for men, women, families, veterans, the homeless and ex-offenders.

"Not only will this CCRI grant help renovate and preserve 28 important units of affordable sober housing for women in Fall River, it will leverage a matching \$50,000 grant from a private foundation," said MassHousing Executive Director Thomas R. Gleason.

The CCRI funding will help fund renovations for Steppingstone's sober housing for women, including upgrades to an electrical system and the replacement of flooring and a ramp for the disabled.

### ***About CCRI***

The Center For Community Recovery Innovations, Inc., issues an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit projects for funding. The proposals that are selected need to meet CCRI's current priorities and eligibility categories. The grants are typically used as one-time gap funding for capital projects that increase or improve the stock of affordable sober housing in Massachusetts. Other proposals that provide services for residents in MassHousing-financed rental housing, specifically those that address alcohol and/or drug abuse or addiction, are also considered for funding.

### ***About MassHousing***

MassHousing (The Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency) is an independent, quasi-public agency created in 1966 and charged with providing financing for affordable housing in Massachusetts. The Agency raises capital by selling bonds and lends the proceeds to low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners, and to developers who build or preserve affordable and/or mixed-income rental housing. MassHousing does not use taxpayer dollars to sustain its operations, although it administers some publicly funded programs on behalf of the Commonwealth. Since its inception, MassHousing has provided more than \$5.6 billion for rental housing and more than \$4.8 billion for homeownership. For more information, visit the MassHousing website at [www.masshousing.com](http://www.masshousing.com).

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