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To: Martha's Vineyard Boards of Selectmen  
Cc: Affordable Housing Committees, Affordable Housing Trust Fund  
Committees, Joint Affordable Housing Group, MVC  
Commissioners  
From: Christine Flynn, Economic Development & Affordable  
Housing Planner  
Date: February 9, 2012  
**Subject: 2012 Island-Wide Housing Needs Assessment**

Last year the Joint Affordable Housing Group (JAHG) – made up of representatives of town affordable housing committees, affordable housing non-profits, and the MVC – proposed a new Island-wide Housing Needs Assessment be carried out to provide current information for project planning and grant writing. State and federal affordable housing funding agencies require such assessments be updated every five years and the Vineyard's last assessment is from 2005.

The MVC set aside \$7,800 of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant funds to defray the costs to the towns of the project. an Island-wide Housing Needs Assessment proposed by the (JAHG). While the project had unanimous support from the affordable housing committees of all six towns and from more than two-dozen housing and community non-profits across the Island, the \$16,200 in combined contributions from the towns was not in place as the end of 2011 approached. Consequently, the MVC had to withdraw the availability of its share of the project, as the \$7,800 in District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant funds had to be spent by the end of the calendar year.

The Department of Housing & Community Development's has renewed the DLTA program for 2012, and the MVC is again able to allocate \$7,800 of DLTA funds and staff resources for the JAHG's project. However, the towns still do not have the cumulative \$16,200 for their share of the project's cost. The contributions of four towns are contingent upon all six towns contributing equal shares, but only five towns have committed to fund the project. (See details on the next page).

The MVC urges the towns to arrange for the full funding of its collective portion of the study's costs by April 2, 2012 so that the DLTA funds can be spent prior to year's end. Should the towns decide not to pursue the housing needs assessment, the DLTA funds would be directed to other eligible regional projects.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is prepared to assist with this project as requested by the towns once it is clear that the towns' portion of the project funding is available. Please advise the JAHG, by contacting me via email at [flynn@mvcommission.org](mailto:flynn@mvcommission.org), as to how your town intends to proceed.

**2012 Island-wide Housing Needs Assessment:  
Current Status of Town Funding – February 9, 2012**

The following is the budget breakdown for the study:

Total Cost: Not more than \$30,000

MVC Share : \$7,800

MVHF Share: \$6,000

Town Share: \$2,700 (x6 = \$16,200)

Aquinnah:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee and the CPC Committee.
- Special Town Meeting approved the CPC Article to appropriate \$2,700 on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Funding contingent that all six towns participate and pay an equal share.
- No further approvals are needed.

Chilmark:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee, the CPC Committee, and the Board of Selectmen.
- Special Town Meeting approved the CPC Article to appropriate \$2,700 on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Funding contingent that all six towns participate and pay an equal share.
- No further approvals are needed.

Edgartown:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee and the Affordable Housing Trust to allocate \$4,000 of available Trust funds.
- The Board of Selectmen voted on June 20<sup>th</sup> against approving the then-reduced share of \$2,700.

Oak Bluffs:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee.
- Approved by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee to allocate \$2,700 on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Funding contingent that all six towns participate and pay an equal share.
- No further approvals are needed.

Tisbury:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee.
- Approved by the Board of Selectmen to allocate \$2,700 on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- No further approvals are needed.

West Tisbury:

- Recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee.
- Approved by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee to allocate \$4,000 on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Funding contingent that all six towns participate and pay an equal share.
- No further approvals are needed.