

# The Boston Home Center Financial Assistance 3D HELP (Home Equity Loan Program) - Fact Sheet

The Boston Home Center's 3D Home Equity Loan Program (3D HELP) is intended to help preserve and support the traditional ownership model of Boston's triple deckers, where the homeowner occupies one unit and rents out the other two. The program offers qualified homeowners a loan for a variety of home repair and energy conservation improvements. Program funding is subject to availability.

## What are the benefits?

- A zero percent (0%) interest, deferred loan of up to \$30,000 for home repairs to owners of triple deckers (see below for restrictions and eligibility). The loan has no monthly payment and does not become due for repayment until the owner sells or transfers ownership of the property, or undertakes a cash-out refinance of the home;
- At least one-third (1/3) of the City funds lent must be used for exterior repair work. For example, the maximum \$30,000 repair project loan would require at least \$10,000 in exterior repairs, and no more than \$20,000 in interior repairs;
- There are no owner match requirements for homeowners with incomes below 120% of Area Median Income (see below). Homeowners with incomes between 120-135% of Area Median Income will have to match the City-funded loan 1:1 with their own funds;
- Owners with larger projects will also receive free technical assistance with bidding, contractor selection and construction monitoring.

## Who is eligible?

- Owner-occupants of a traditional triple-decker: defined as a free-standing 3-family home that has been classified by City of Boston Assessing as a "decker" building type; or an owner-occupant of a condominium in a 1-6 unit condominium association;
- Participants must meet the following income requirements:

### HUD INCOME LIMITS & ELIGIBILITY

Household Size	Zero-Match Loans 120% AMI	1:1 Match Loans 120-135% AMI
1-Person	Under \$ 90,550	\$ 90,550 - \$101,850
2-Person	Under \$103,500	\$103,500 - \$116,400
3-Person	Under \$116,400	\$116,400 - \$131,000
4-Person	Under \$129,350	\$129,350 - \$145,550
5-Person	Under \$139,700	\$139,700 - \$157,150
6-Person	Under \$150,050	\$150,050 - \$168,800
7-Person	Under \$160,400	\$160,400 - \$180,450
8-Person	Under \$170,750	\$170,750 - \$192,100

- Owner must be current with all City of Boston debt, including property taxes and water bills;
- Owner must have less than \$75,000 in financial assets, excluding the home and retirement accounts;
- Owner may not have received home repair financial assistance from any City of Boston program within the past ten (10) years, excluding deleading funds.



City of Boston  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



NEIGHBORHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT



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## ***What repairs are eligible?***

Health and safety repairs and any code violations must be addressed first.

### **Interior Repairs**

Interior repairs include, but are not limited to: kitchens, bathrooms, hallways, bedrooms, floors, walls, and ceiling, heating systems, electrical and plumbing upgrades, weatherization and energy conservation improvements and basement waterproofing.

### **Exterior Repairs**

Exterior repairs that would qualify for the 1/3rd requirement include, but are not limited to: painting, clapboard and vinyl siding repairs, masonry, windows, porches, and roofs.

### **Ineligible Repairs**

City funds may not be used for the following repairs, including but not limited to: appliances, luxury finishes, or amenities (e.g., granite countertops, jet tubs); driveways or landscaping; retaining walls; additions, including finishing basement or attic spaces.

## ***How do I apply for 3D HELP and what happens next?***

1. Submit or mail a signed, completed Boston Home Center (BHC) Financial Assistance Application and check off 3D HELP under the Homeowner Programs. Submit this application with all the required documentation listed on the Application Checklist. The application is available at: [HomeCenter.Boston.gov](http://HomeCenter.Boston.gov) via download, calling 617.635.4663, or picking one up at:  

The Boston Home Center  
26 Court Street, 9th floor  
Boston, MA 02108
2. Eligible applicants will be contacted by the Program Manager who will work with them.
3. A Boston Home Center Construction Specialist will visit your home to review and approve the scope of work for your project.
4. You will receive an enrollment letter indicating your eligibility to receive a 100% City-funded loan, or a 50% City-funded loan that requires a dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match with your own or bank funds for the home repairs.
5. Sign the loan closing documents for the zero percent (0%) interest rate deferred loan and receive a commitment letter from the City.
6. After the loan closing, you can now sign a contract with your selected contractor. The contractor will obtain a building permit from the City's Inspectional Services Department, and the repairs on your home may begin.
7. Once the work is completed, contact your Program Manager and submit a final invoice from your contractor along with a copy of the signed permit indicating a final approval.
8. A final inspection will be conducted by your Construction Specialist.
9. The check for payment of City funds will be mailed to your contractor after the project and the final inspection have been completed.

**For More Information, go to:  
[HomeCenter.Boston.gov](http://HomeCenter.Boston.gov) or call  
617.635.4663**