

REALIZE-MA DEEP ENERGY RETROFITS



Allston Brighton CDC's Guide for Building Owners

Building owners can align their portfolios for success, informed by the approach taken by Allston Brighton CDC to secure project funding from available sources, with the following tips and guidance:

- 1. Connect with the right people — early.** Research the network of key players involved in decarbonizing affordable housing and engage with experts on project scopes, teams, and available funding as early in the project as possible. In Massachusetts, consider RMI's [REALIZE-MA](#) initiative, in partnership with [LISC](#), which currently supports the [1,000 Apartment Challenge](#). This initiative offers consultation, guidance on decarbonization pathways, knowledge-sharing networks, and project development technical assistance.
- 2. Be proactive about modeling and planning.** Timing is crucial to securing funding. Funding opportunities often have competitive rounds, extensive application requirements, and limited application submission windows. Ensure that all the preliminary work, such as energy auditing and feasibility studies, is completed well in advance or as soon as possible.
- 3. Strengthen your funding applications.** Presenting a compelling and clear case for your project to funding agencies can be pivotal to making your deep energy retrofit a reality. Refer to our table for funding sources that can support you in that process in Massachusetts.

Insider's Tips on Applications: Advice from Kristen Simmons (a FUSE Executive Fellow) and Joe Backer, both reviewers from the [City of Boston MOH](#), provide insight on what makes a strong application:

- **Demonstrate clear alignment and capacity.** Highlight how each goal and requirement of the funding opportunity is met, ensuring information is easily accessible and understood. Provide details on how the project will be successfully executed using a combination of funding sources and through strong applicant management.
- **Meet with a representative of the funding agency before applying.** Early conversations can help applicants gain a better understanding of the funding opportunity, identify potential application gaps before submitting, and provide valuable insights to reviewers regarding project factors, such as pre-development challenges, construction costs, schedule impacts, etc.
- **Make it meaningful.** Letters of support from tenants, tenant organizations, or other stakeholders that testify to the applicant's capacity or the project's value can make a big difference.

*Want to learn more how deep energy retrofits can benefit your affordable multifamily housing property?
Please reach out to the REALIZE team (realize@rmi.org)*



realize@rmi.org



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