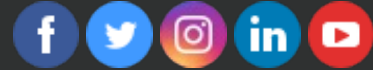


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MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home



MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS

Take action with us to support
key homelessness, housing, and
benefits amendments to the
Senate Ways and Means
Committee's FY'20 budget
recommendations.

[www.mahomeless.org/
advocacy](http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy)

May 14, 2019

Greetings!

We need your help to strengthen the Senate's version of the FY'20 state budget. **Please call your State Senator tomorrow to ask them to sign**

on to, and actively support, critical Senate budget amendments related to homelessness, housing, and benefits. You can look up your State Senator via www.wheredoivotema.com or call the State House switchboard at 617-722-2000. After calling or emailing them, please [let us know what the response was](#).

Key Amendments

- [Amendment #797](#) to establish and fund the upstream Rent Arrearage Assistance Program (RAAP) under the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program, filed by Senator Pat Jehlen of Somerville and currently cosponsored by Senator Jim Welch: [RAAP Senate amendment fact sheet](#) - PDF; [call script](#) - PDF; [talking points](#) - PDF

- [Amendment #464](#) to ease access to Mass IDs for people experiencing homelessness, filed by Senate President Emerita Harriette Chandler of Worcester and currently cosponsored by Senator Jim Welch: [Mass ID access amendment fact sheet](#) - PDF

- [Amendment #715](#) to provide an additional \$20 million to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, filed by Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn and currently cosponsored by Senators Michael Moore and Jim Welch: [general FY'20 MRVP budget fact sheet](#) - PDF

We also are partnering with allied organizations on related amendments to additional programs, including:

- [Amendment #872](#) to allow families in Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter to increase their incomes to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines before going over the income limit, filed by Senator Patrick O'Connor of Weymouth (as described in our [budget priority chart](#))

Background

Last week, the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#) released its [fiscal year 2020 budget recommendations](#). This is the first budget under the leadership of [Senate President Karen Spilka](#) of Ashland and [Senate Ways and Means Chair Michael Rodrigues](#) of Westport. Senate Ways and Means (SWM) recommended \$42.7 billion in spending for the new fiscal year, which will begin on July 1st.

The budget includes strong recommended language and proposed investments in homelessness, housing, and benefits programs, including:

- Emergency Assistance family and shelter program (EA, line item 7004-0101) language to ensure that families experiencing homelessness do not have to sleep in places not meant for human habitation before becoming eligible for EA shelter ([matching our advocacy request](#) on places not meant for human habitation; partially matching our overall request)
- \$1.7 million in additional funding for housing and services for unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, which would bring the funding level up to \$5 million ([matching our advocacy request](#))
- Level funding of \$20 million for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program (RAFT, line item 7004-9316), and language that would maintain access for households without dependent children ([partially matching our overall advocacy request](#))
- \$10 million in new funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, line item 7004-9024), which would bring the funding level up to \$110 million, and language that would update the allowable monthly rent levels to match current fair market rents for mobile subsidies issued or leased after August 1, 2019 ([partially](#)

[matching our advocacy request](#))

- \$1.85 million in additional funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP, line item 7004-9030) that would increase funding to \$8 million ([matching our advocacy request](#))
- \$6.5 million in additional funding for state-funded public housing operating subsidies (line item 7004-9005) that would increase funding to \$72 million ([matching our advocacy request](#))
- Language that would maintain full Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children program (EAEDC, line item 4408-1000) benefits to participants experiencing homelessness ([matching our advocacy request](#))
- Important funding and language for the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (TAFDC, line item 4403-2000), including language that would remove the homelessness penalty and restore benefits to families experiencing homelessness, as well as additional funds to provide benefits to families previously subject to the family cap rule ([matching/addressing our advocacy request](#))

Here is our updated [FY'20 budget chart](#), with our initial analysis of key line items related to homelessness, housing, and benefits, and information about key budget amendments (see columns K-L).

State Senators can cosponsor amendments until the full Senate budget debate, which is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 21st.

When calling to ask your Senator to cosponsor and support amendments, if your Senator is a [member of Senate Ways and Means](#) or [Senate leadership](#), please also thank them for the strong budget.

In addition, see below for details about a celebration happening tomorrow to mark passage of the legislation that repeals the welfare family cap rule. Please join us at the State House at 1:30 p.m., if you can, and share the invitation with your State Representative and Senator. (In an uplifting update from the Department of Transitional Assistance, as of this morning, 4,000 children who previously were subject to the family cap rule already have been approved for benefits, with thousands of additional children set to receive benefits shortly, now that the repeal is being implemented.)

We continue to be grateful for your collaboration and interest!

In solidarity,

Kelly Turley
Associate Director
kelly@mahomeless.org

LIFT
THE CAP ON
KIDS

Lift the Cap on Kids Celebration!

May 15, 2019 at 1:30, 3rd Floor Lobby



The Campaign to **Lift the Cap on Kids** thanks you for helping to repeal the welfare family cap.

Please join **Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Spilka, Senator DiDomenico and Representative Decker** to celebrate ending the unjust law that denied children benefits because of when they were born.

May 15, 2019, 1:30 PM
State House 3rd Floor Lobby

For more information:

Deborah Harris, Mass Law Reform Institute
dharris@mlri.org, 857-241-1713

Naomi Meyer, Greater Boston Legal Services
nmeyer@gbls.org, 617-603-1621

Supporting Organizations

1199 SEIU
 Acord Food Pantry
 Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
 Action Inc.
 Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
 American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
 Amherst Survival Center
 ARISE for Social Justice
 Asian American Civic Association
 Asian American Resource Workshop
 Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
 Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
 Berkshire Community Diaper Project
 Beverly Bootstraps
 Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
 Brazilian Women's Group
 Brookview House, Inc.
 Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
 Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
 Cape Cod Children's Place
 Casa Myrna
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
 Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
 Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery, BIDMC
 Central West Justice Center
 Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
 Chelsea Collaborative
 Children's HealthWatch
 Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
 Chinese Progressive Association
 City Life/Vida Urbana
 City Mission Boston
 Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
 Coalition for Social Justice
 Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
 Community Action Pioneer Valley
 Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
 Cradles to Crayons
 Domestic Violence Action Committee in Needham
 DOVE
 Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
 Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
 Fenway Health/AIDS Action Committee
 Family ACCESS of Newton
 Greater Boston Food Bank
 Greater Boston Legal Services
 HarborCOV
 Heading Home, Inc.
 Health Care for All
 The Home for Little Wanderers
 Homes for Families
 HomeStart, Inc.
 Horizons for Homeless Children
 Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
 Jane Doe Inc.
 Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
 Jewish Community Relations Council
 Jewish Family and Children's Service
 Justice Center of Southeast MA
 Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Economic Justice
 League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
 Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
 Massachusetts AFL-CIO
 Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
 Massachusetts Advocates for Children
 Mass. Association of Early Education & Care (MADCA)
 Mass. Association for Community Action (MassCAP)
 Mass. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
 Massachusetts Family Planning Association
 Mass. Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
 Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
 Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
 Massachusetts Public Health Association
 Massachusetts Teachers Association
 Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
 Metrowest Legal Services
 MLPB
 MotherWoman
 Muslim American Society of Boston
 New England Area Conference of NAACP
 New England Jewish Labor Committee
 NARAL Pro Choice Massachusetts
 National Association of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
 Neighbor to Neighbor
 North Shore Postpartum Help
 Northeast Justice Center
 Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
 Nurtury
 The Open Door
 Open Pantry Community Services Inc.
 Parenting Journey
 Pathways for Children
 Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund
 Poor People's United Fund
 Progressive Massachusetts
 Project Bread
 Project Hope
 REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
 Roca
 Rosie's Place
 Safe Passage
 SEIU 32BJ Local 615
 SEIU Local 509
 ServiceNET
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
 Somerville Homeless Coalition
 Springfield Housing Authority
 Springfield No One Leaves
 Stavros
 Those Who Can for Those in Need
 Transition House
 UAW Region 9A CAP Council
 Union of Minority Neighborhoods
 United Way Mass. Bay and Merrimack Valley
 UTEC
 Vietnamese American Civic Association
 Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts
 Wellspring House, Inc.
 Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
 Womanshelter/Compañeras
 Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
 Worcester County Food Bank
 Worcester Food Policy Council

