



**MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

May 22, 2017

Greetings!

This morning, the Massachusetts State Senate will begin caucusing on their FY'18 budget recommendations, and their debate is scheduled to begin tomorrow. We are hopeful that the budget that emerges at the conclusion of this week's debate will make even deeper investments and additional wise policy changes to address homelessness, housing instability, and poverty.

**Please contact your State Senator today to ask her/him to do all that they can to support the youth homelessness amendments (#481 and #306), the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children amendment (#323), and the amendments listed below by cosponsoring, speaking up in caucuses and on the Senate floor, and sharing their support with Senate Leadership.**

If you are unsure who your Senator is or how to contact them, check out <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator> or [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).



Please Cosponsor and Actively Support  
These FY'18 Senate Budget Amendments



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- Further increase funding to serve **unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (line item 4000-0007)** to \$4 million; amendment to be filed by Senator Jason Lewis
- Support the work of the **Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** by reestablishing language and providing \$150,000 in funding through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (**line item, 4000-0300**); amendment to be filed by Senator Julian Cyr
- Eliminate the homelessness penalty in the **Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children program (EAEDC, line item 4408-1000)**; amendment to be filed by Senator Thomas McGee
- Further increase funding for the **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (line item 7004-9024)** to \$120 million and allow participants to use the subsidies in units at the current fair market rents; amendment to be filed by Senator Joe Boncore
- Strengthen tracking and reporting requirements for the **Emergency Assistance family shelter program (line item 7004-0101)** to better understand who is served/not served by the EA program, and to allow families to retain EA benefits without triggering the 6-month time clock if they exceed the program's income limit of 115% of the federal poverty guidelines for fewer than 90 days; amendment to be filed by Senator Jason Lewis
- Allow families that are in compliance with their rehousing plans to renew their **HomeBASE (line item 7004-0108)** subsidies for an additional 12 months and further increase HomeBASE funding; amendment to be filed by Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz
- Eliminate the family cap rule in the **Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (TAFDC, line item 4403-2000)**; amendment to be filed by Senator Joan Lovely

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley at the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless:

[kelly@mahomeless.org](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or 781-595-7570 x17.

Thank you for taking action and for your ongoing commitment! Please let me know if you have any questions and check [this page](#) for more details, links, and fact sheets.

With gratitude,  
Kelly and the Coalition team

Kelly Turley  
Associate Director  
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Please Ask Your State Senator to Cosponsor Key Homelessness, Housing, and Benefits Amendments to the FY'18 Senate Budget Today!

More details and fact sheets at [www.mahomeless.org/advocacy](http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy)



Thank you for taking action to ensure everyone has a place to call home.





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Please ask your State Senator to  
cosponsor Senator Lewis  
and Senator Cyr's  
FY'18 budget amendments  
increasing youth + young adult  
#homelessness funding!  
Amendments #481 and #306

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

#YouthWithoutHomesCantWait

Can You Live **On \$92.80** For An Entire Month?



## Remove **THE SHELTER REDUCTION/PENALTY** for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness!

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program participants who are experiencing homelessness receive a reduced grant of only \$92.80 from the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance.

This monthly grant is 70% lower than the \$303.70 average monthly grant for individuals who have housing. It clearly is insufficient for these participants to meet even their most basic needs.

**Please take action today to increase dignity for EAEDC participants by cosponsoring and actively supporting Senator Tom McGee's amendment to line item 4408-1000 in the FY'18 Senate budget. His amendment would eliminate the homelessness penalty.**

By allowing EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness (in or out of shelter) to receive full EAEDC grant, their lives would not be further financially disrupted and they might be able to transition into a more stable living arrangement sooner.

To cosponsor the amendment, please contact Katie Kass in Senator McGee's office: [katie.kass@masenate.gov](mailto:katie.kass@masenate.gov) or 617-722-1350. For more information, please contact Kelly Turley at [kelly@mahomeless.org](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or 781-595-7570 x17 or visit [www.mahomeless.org/advocacy](http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy).



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**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!**



The Senate Committee on Ways and Means' FY'18 budget included recommendations of \$18.5 million and retained language that would allow families of all configurations to receive assistance from the RAFT homelessness prevention program (line item 7004-9316)!



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*Thank you for your support!*

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means' budget included the language that would protect children and families experiencing homelessness from having to stay in places not meant for human habitation (Emergency Assistance family shelter and services program, line item 7004-0101)

STAY CONNECTED:

