



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Youth Without Homes Can't Wait:
Please Sign on to Representative O'Day's Youth Homelessness Amendments to Push for \$4 Million in the FY'19 Budget for Housing and Services (Amendment #1173) and \$150,000 to Continue the Work of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Amendment #1177)



Building upon the momentum from the January 2015 signing of the unaccompanied youth homelessness bill into law (Chapter 6A, Sections 16W and 16X of the Massachusetts General Laws) and the Legislature's provision of \$675,000 thousand for housing and services for unaccompanied youth in FY'18, we are seeking \$4 million in the FY'19 budget to address the housing and support service needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness, and \$150,000 for the ongoing work of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.

Requests:

- **Cosponsor Amendment #1173: \$4 million for housing and wraparound services for unaccompanied youth under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) line item, 4000-0007.** This would be an increase of \$3 million from the House Ways and Means FY'19 budget recommendation (and \$2 million above the Governor's FY'19 request).
 - The additional housing and service resources would be **targeted to youth and young adults age 24 and younger who are experiencing homelessness out on their own**, outside the custody or care of a parent/guardian.
- **Cosponsor Amendment #1177: \$150,000 to support the ongoing work of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and the annual Youth Count, via the EOHHS administrative line item, 4000-0300.**

Why Now?

There is a desperate need for increased housing, shelter, and service options for youth and young adults age 24 or younger who are living outside the custody and care of their parents or guardians. We know all too well that youth homelessness takes its toll on both the youth and our society at large. People who experience homelessness as adolescents often face bleak outcomes. While many youth are resilient and are able to overcome the ravages of homelessness, homelessness often leads to poor health outcomes including increased risk of death, exposure to violence, susceptibility to exploitation and high risk behaviors, and poor academic performance with increased risk of dropping out of school.

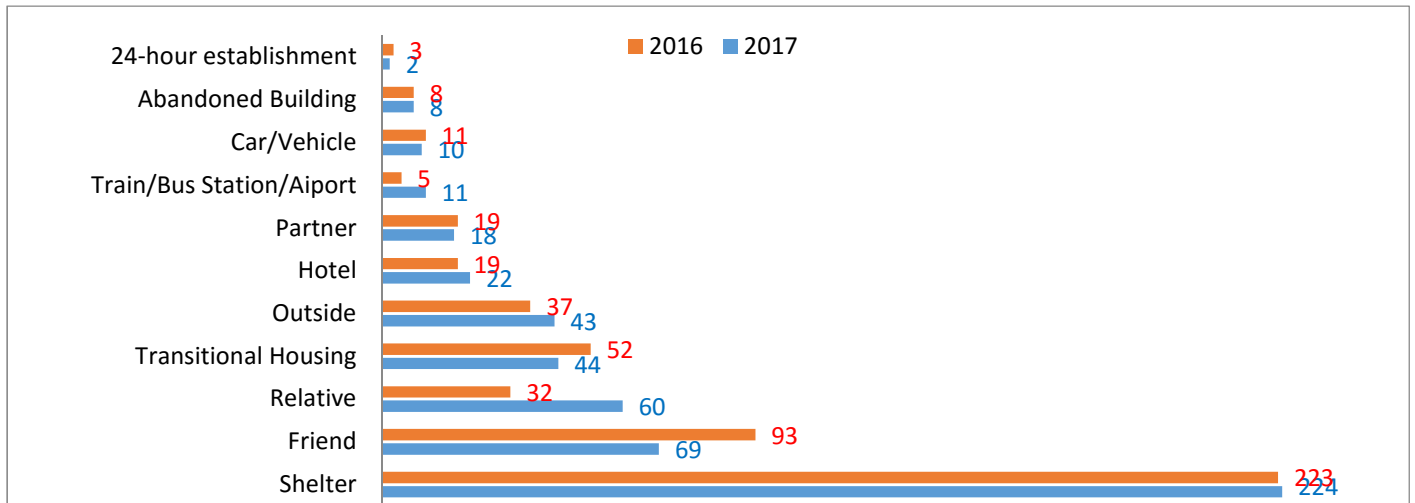
In May 2017, under the leadership of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and in partnership with youth and youth providers, the state conducted its fourth annual statewide youth homelessness survey through the Continua of Care networks. 2,711 of the young people who participated in the survey were under the age of 25, and of those young people, 501 youth (18.5%) indicated that they currently were experiencing homelessness out on their own, and an additional 246 young people (9.1%) currently were experiencing homelessness along with their parent or guardian. Another 558 young people (20.6%) currently had housing, but had experienced homelessness in the past, and 50 youth (1.8%) said that they had housing that day, but were unsure if they would lose it in the next two weeks. The results are helping to shed more light on the extent of youth homelessness and the needs of young people here in the Commonwealth. See the reverse side for some data from the survey. More information is available at <http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/unaccompanied-youth-homelessness>.

We know that the time to act is now. **The \$4 million requested for FY'19 will provide much-needed resources to build up a systematic, effective response to unaccompanied youth homelessness in all regions of Massachusetts, and the \$150,000 will support the ongoing work of the Commission and its annual Massachusetts Youth Count.**

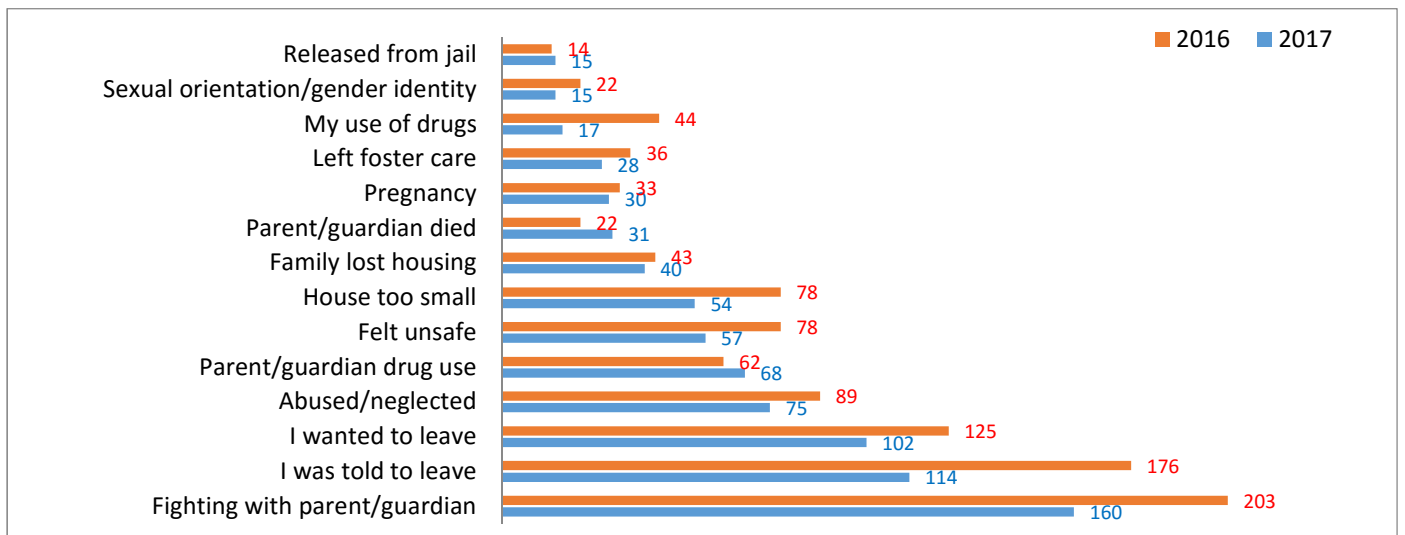
Amendment #1173 cosponsors, as of April 18th: Representatives O'Day (lead sponsor), Atkins, Barber, Benson, Connolly, Decker, DiZoglio, Dwyer, Farley-Bouvier, Garballey, Garry, Gentile, Goldstein-Rose, González, Hay, Hecht, Kane, Keefe, Kelcourse, Khan, Lewis, Linsky, Matias, McMurtry, Nangle, Provost, Puppolo, D. Rogers, Smizik, Stanley, Tosado, Ultrino, Vega, Vincent, and C. Walsh

Current Amendment #1177 cosponsors, as of April 18th: Representatives O'Day (lead sponsor), Atkins, Barber, Connolly, Decker, Dwyer, Farley-Bouvier, Ferguson, Garballey, Gentile, Goldstein-Rose, González, Hay, Hecht, Keefe, Khan, Lewis, Linsky, Matias, McMurtry, Poirier, Provost, Puppolo, D. Rogers, Smizik, Stanley, Tosado, Ultrino, Vega, and C. Walsh

Where Young People Slept the Night Before the Survey



Reasons Young People Were Not Living with Parent/Guardian



Youth without homes can't wait! Please cosponsor and actively support a \$4 million investment in housing and services for unaccompanied youth in FY'19 (Amendment #1173), and continued support for the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Amendment #1177)!

Organizational endorsers (Alphabetical list): Action, Inc., AIDS Action Committee/Youth on Fire, Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc., Children's League of Massachusetts, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services, Domus Incorporated, Father Bill's/Mainspring, Homeless Prevention Council of Lower Cape Cod, Homes for Families, Housing Families Inc., Justice Resource Institute/YouthHarbors, LUK, Inc., Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, MassEquality, Metro Housing Boston, Poor People's United Fund, Samaritans Steps, School on Wheels, Somerville Homeless Coalition, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, and Y2Y Harvard Square.

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.



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