

MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM

Support funding of \$120M for MRVP (line item 7004-9024) in FY2018.

MRVP provides housing stability and security to more than 8,000 extremely low income households, including elders, disabled individuals, and families with children.

FY2018 FUNDING REQUEST: \$120 MILLION

RECENT SUCCESSES WITH MRVP:

- A reduction in the state's reliance on motels to house families experiencing homelessness;
- An increase of over 900 new units to the Commonwealth's supportive housing portfolio; and
- The preservation of affordability in units that would have otherwise been lost due to the loss of federal supports.

WHY NOW?

- The number of households experiencing housing instability and homelessness persists as Massachusetts remains one of the most expensive states in the nation in which to live.
- More than 240,000 MA low income renters pay more than 50% of their monthly income toward housing expenses alone.
- HUD's 2015 *Family Options Study* demonstrated that families experiencing homelessness who secured a housing voucher experienced significantly better outcomes than other interventions. Families able to access vouchers were less likely to reenter homelessness; more often remained intact; had fewer school interruptions for their children; and decreased their levels of toxic stress, including domestic violence.

WHAT WILL \$120M FOR MRVP IN FY2018 ACCOMPLISH?

- Annualize the cost of new supportive housing units and current vouchers, while providing approximately 1,500 new mobile and project based vouchers.
- Improve MRVP's effectiveness and reduce the amount of time it takes for voucher holders to obtain housing by setting allowable rents at HUD's area-wide, annually updated Fair Market Rent (currently \$1,691 for a 2-bedroom in the Boston area), setting the baseline for vouchers that work more effectively in the current market.
- Increase the income cap from 50% of the area median income to 80%; providing families a pathway to housing and economic stability.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS CAMPAIGN CO-SPONSORS

Action for Boston Community Development
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness
AIDS Housing Corporation
Asian Community Development Corporation
Berkshire Housing Development Corporation
Boston Center for Independent Living
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
Boston Tenant Coalition
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of Greater Boston
Central Mass. Housing Alliance
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Services of Roxbury
Citizens Inn
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City Life/Vida Urbana
City Mission Boston
Community Teamwork Inc.
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
Crossroads Family Shelter
Emmaus, Inc.
EmPath
Episcopal City Mission
FamilyAid Boston
Family Economic Initiative
Family-to-Family Project
Fair Housing Center of Gr. Boston
Father Bills Mainspring
Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore
HAPHousing
Heading Home, Inc.
Hearth
Home Funders Collaborative
Homes for Families
Horizons for Homeless Children

House of Hope
Housing Assistance Corporation
Housing Families, Inc.
Housing Solutions for Southeastern MA
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
Jane Doe Inc
Lynn Shelter Association
Mass. Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
Mass. Association for Community Action
Mass. Association of Community Dev. Corporations
Mass. Association of Older Americans
Mass. Coalition for the Homeless
Mass. Housing and Shelter Alliance
Mass. Law Reform Institute
Mass. NAHRO
Mass. Public Health Association
Medford Community Housing
Medical Legal Partnership, Boston
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
National Association of Social Workers, MA
Neighbor-to-Neighbor
Pine Street Inn
Project Hope
RCAP Solutions, Inc.
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
Rosie's Place
Rural Development, Inc.
Shelburne Housing Authority
Sojourner's House
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Southeast Regional Network to End Homelessness
South Middlesex Opportunity Council
St. Mary's Women and Children's Center
Victory Programs
Wellspring House
Women's Institute for Hsg. & Economic Dev.
The Women's Lunch Place

