

# Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program

## FY2021 FUNDING REQUEST: \$135 MILLION

MRVP provides housing stability and security to more than **8,600** low income households, including elders, disabled individuals, and families with children.

**Support funding of \$135M for MRVP (line item 7004-9024) in FY2021.**

### RECENT SUCCESSES WITH MRVP:

- A reduction in the state's reliance on motels to house families experiencing homelessness;
- An increase of over 1,000 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.
- Nearly **70%** of the Commonwealth's renter households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost burdened, needing to spend **more than half of their income** on housing costs; the same is true for 22% of MA renter households earning 31%-50% AMI.\*
- 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.*
- Vulnerable residents of Massachusetts need reinvigorated state government supports for their stability amidst ongoing uncertainties within our federal policy environments.

### WHAT WILL \$135M FOR MRVP FOR FY2021 ACCOMPLISH?

- Annualize the cost of new supportive housing units and current vouchers, a projected cost of **\$119.8M**.
- 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 \$2,311 for a 2-bedroom in the Boston area), thereby setting a baseline for vouchers that will work more effectively in the current market.
- Provide approximately 1,000 new mobile and project based vouchers beyond the current maximum utilization of the program.

\*Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2019 GAP Report.

# 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  
Centerboard  
Central Mass. Housing Alliance  
Children's HealthWatch (BMC)  
Children's Services of Roxbury  
Citizens Inn  
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association  
City Life / Vida Urbana  
City Mission  
Community Teamwork  
Crossroads Family Center  
Developmental Disabilities Management Assistance, Inc.  
Emmaus, Inc.  
Economic Mobility Pathways - EMPATH  
FamilyAid Boston  
Family Independence Initiative  
Family-to-Family Project  
Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston  
Father Bill's & Mainspring  
Fenway Community Development Corporation  
Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority  
Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore  
Heading Home, Inc.  
Hearth  
Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center  
Home City Development, Inc.  
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 Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development  
Lynn Shelter Association  
Mass. Alliance of HUD Tenants  
Mass. Association for Community Action  
Mass. Association of Community Development Corp.  
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  
Medical Legal Partnership, Boston  
Metro Housing|Boston  
National Association of Social Workers - MA  
Neighbor-to-Neighbor  
New Lease  
North Shore Community Development Corporation  
Pine Street Inn  
Project Hope  
RCAP Solutions  
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts  
Rosie's Place  
Rural Development, Inc.  
ServiceNet  
Shelburne Housing Authority  
Sojourner's House  
Somerville Homeless Coalition  
South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation  
Southcoast Regional Network to End Homelessness  
South Middlesex Opportunity Council  
St. Mary's Center for Women and Children  
Victory Programs  
Way Finders  
Wellspring House  
Western Mass. Network to End Homelessness  
Women's Institute for Housing & Economic Development  
The Women's Lunch Place

