



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

May 6, 2013

Tomorrow: Participate in a Call-In Day to the State Senate in Support of Emergency Assistance and HomeBASE!

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[Emergency Assistance fact sheet](#)

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[Coalition's analysis of the House Ways and Means budget](#)

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["Out in the Cold: Homeless Children in Crisis in Massachusetts"](#)

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Dear friend,

The Coalition and our allies are mobilizing people across the Commonwealth to weigh in with their State Senators for a call-in day tomorrow, Tuesday, May 7th, in support of families experiencing homelessness. In advance of next week's release of the Senate Ways and Means FY'14 budget proposal and the following week's Senate budget debate, we need your help to increase the volume on our call to improve the [Emergency Assistance](#) and HomeBASE programs for families who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness.

Please see below and the side bar for more details and a suggested phone script, as well as details on further actions you can take.

Thank you!

-Kelly

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Suggested Phone Script for Your Call to Your Senator

"Hello, my name is _____ and I live at _____.

I am calling to ask Senator _____ and your office to do all you can to ensure that language and funding are included in the Senate's version of the fiscal year 2014 budget to:

- Provide access to Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter to families at imminent risk of having to stay in places not meant for human habitation (line item 7004-0101)

- Clarify that families who have stayed in three or more places in the last 30 days and have nowhere else to go should be eligible for EA shelter under the unstable housing/ health and safety risk sub-category (line item 7004-0101)
- Extend HomeBASE rental assistance benefits and/or other resources to families timing out of the program so that those more than 5,000 families do not have to return to homelessness (line item 7004-0108)
- Make the necessary increased investments in housing, homelessness prevention, and safety net programs in FY'14 (line items such as 7004-9024, 7004-9005, 7004-9316, and 4403-2000)

Thank you for your time and attention to these important issues! I hope I can count on Senator _____'s support."

Have Time to Do More?

1. **Send a letter to Senate Leadership:** Send a letter on your organization's letterhead to Senate President Therese Murray and Senate Ways and Means Chair Stephen Brewer asking for these issues to be addressed in the Senate version of the FY'14 budget. A [template is available here](#) for your convenience, which you can add to or adjust to reflect your personalized message. Please send these letters in the week ahead, and encourage allied organizations to do the same.
2. **Spread the word:** Mobilize your staff, program participants, friends, et al. to contact their State Senator as well. The more calls, emails, letters, and visits with Senators on this issue, the better.

Senators can be reached via the State House switchboard at 617-722-2000 and identified via www.wheredoivotema.com.

For more information or to report back on your advocacy, please contact Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.

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Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless



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