



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

June 9, 2016

The Time is Now! Help Advocate on Housing, Homelessness, and Safety Net Issues as the Legislature Finalizes the FY'17 State Budget

Read Below for More Details on Housing, Homelessness, and Safety Net Issues Up for Debate

Quick Links

[Coalition's home page](#)

[Coalition's Conference Committee webpage](#)

[Online action to support the expansion of the RAFT homelessness prevention program](#)

[Online action to support passage of the EAEDC bill for elders + people with disabilities](#)

[Senate budget page](#)

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[Coalition's FY'17 budget priorities](#)

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[Overview of budget process](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Greetings!

Tomorrow, the Legislature's Joint Conference Committee on the fiscal year 2017 budget is set to begin its deliberations to work out the differences between the House and Senate proposed budgets for the year ahead. The compromise budget that comes out of the Conference Committee then will be brought to the House and Senate members for a final vote before being sent to the Governor.

As we reported last week, this year's House Conference Committee members are: Representatives [Brian Dempsey](#) (D-Haverhill, Chair of House Ways and Means), [Stephen Kulik](#) (D-Worthington, Vice Chair of House Ways and Means), and [Todd Smola](#) (R-Warren, Minority Member of House Ways and Means). The Senate Conference Committee members are Senators [Karen Spilka](#) (D-Ashland, Chair of Senate Ways and Means), [Sal DiDomenico](#) (D-Everett, Vice Chair of Senate Ways and Mean), and [Vinny deMacedo](#) (R-Plymouth, Minority Member of Senate Ways and Means).

In order to ensure that the Conference Committee's budget has the best language and highest levels of funding possible for housing and homelessness issues, **please ask your own State Representative and Senator to actively support the housing and homelessness priorities listed in [our letter to the conferees](#).**


For more details on our top three priority line items (RAFT, Emergency Assistance, and housing and services for unaccompanied youth), please see below.

For program fact sheets and additional materials, please go to our [Present Policy Campaigns page](#) and our [Conference Committee page](#).

Thank you for your advocacy and your continued support of housing and homelessness issues! We really are in the homestretch now!

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on  **twitter**

 View on Instagram

-Kelly

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FY'17 State Budget

Conference Committee members
have been named!

Representatives:

Brian Dempsey, Stephen Kulik, and Todd Smola

Senators:

Karen Spilka, Sal DiDomenico, and Vinny deMacedo

Advocate with us for the strongest possible budget on
housing, homelessness prevention, and safety net benefits!

Find out more at www.mahomeless.org/advocacy.



Conference Committee Priorities

Our top three priorities are:

- **Expanding access to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) homelessness prevention program:** Please ask your legislators to support the Senate version of the RAFT line item (7004-9316), which expands the definition of family to include elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other household types and adds \$500,000 to serve these households, while retaining level funding of \$12.5 million for families with children under the age of 21. The [RAFT Conference Committee fact sheet](#) and [one-minute online action](#) are here.
- **Allowing families to access Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter before they are forced to stay in places not meant for human habitation:** Please ask your legislators to support the Senate version of the EA line item (7004-0101), which allows otherwise eligible families to enter EA without having to prove that they already have stayed in an emergency room, car, campground, etc. The [Emergency Assistance Conference Committee fact sheet](#) is here.
- **Funding housing and services for unaccompanied youth and young adults at at least \$2 million:** Please ask your legislators to support the Senate version of the unaccompanied youth line item (4000-0007), which is \$1 million more than the House version. The [unaccompanied youth Conference Committee fact sheet](#) is here.

Our [full priority list](#), including our Massachusetts Rental Voucher

Program, HomeBASE, Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children Program and other requests, is here.

Take Action!

Please reach out to your State Representative and Senator to ask them to weigh in with their colleagues on the FY'17 budget Conference Committee in support of [these programs and funding levels for key housing, homelessness, and benefits programs](#).

Legislators can be reached via the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or directly through the links listed [here](#). To look up legislators by your home address, go to www.wheredoivotema.com.

If you have additional time, please reach out directly to the conferees, via the links listed above with their names.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

4,458

HOUSEHOLDS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
REGAIN STABILITY BY EXPANDING ACCESS TO RAFT,
A KEY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM
(LINE ITEM 7004-9316)

<http://tinyurl.com/actnow4raft>

FY'17 Budget: House and Senate Recommendations for Housing, Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, and Cash Assistance Programs

To access the House's complete budget recommendations, please go to [FY'17 House budget recommendations](#). For the Coalition's analysis, please go to the [Coalition's House budget advocacy page](#).

To access the Senate's complete budget recommendations, please go to [FY'17 Senate budget recommendations](#). For the Coalition's analysis,

please go to the [Coalition's Senate budget advocacy page](#).

We hope you will join us as the Coalition continues to push for the protection of housing and homelessness programs for FY'17. We will keep you informed of the progress as the state's budget makes its way through the final stages in the weeks ahead.

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.

mchalert
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless