



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

May 15, 2018

Take Action: Please Cosponsor and Actively Support Key Homelessness, Housing, and Benefits Amendments to the Senate FY'19 Budget

We were very pleased to see so many of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' priorities reflected in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means fiscal year 2019 budget proposal.

We ask for your cosponsorship and active support of several key budget amendments that would further strengthen the Senate budget. Thank you in advance!

Key Amendments

- **Emergency Assistance family shelter program (EA) amendment:** Senator Barbara L'Italien filed [Amendment #533](#) to ensure that families with children that are experiencing homelessness can file in-person applications for family shelter with staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development in at least the ten cities and towns that had offices as of

January 1, 2018. This is in response to efforts to shift to a more telephonically based system, which would present challenges to many families lacking access to phones, computers, scanners, and fax machines. The amendment would add language to the DHCD administrative line item, 7004-0099 would maintain in-person application sites (in addition to telephonic options.). Please see our EA amendment fact sheet attached and online at <https://tinyurl.com/ea-senate>. **Please cosponsor and actively support the Emergency Assistance amendment, Amendment #533.**

- **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) amendment:** We were thrilled to see that the SWM budget included the full recommended funding for RAFT of \$18.5 million, as well as language to maintain access for elders, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth. We are working with Senator Jamie Eldridge, who filed [Amendment #680](#) to tweak the language in line item 7004-9316 so that *at least* \$3 million is set aside for households without children under the age of 21,



instead of no more than \$3 million. Please see our RAFT amendment fact sheet attached and online at <https://tinyurl.com/raft-senate>. **Please cosponsor and actively support the RAFT amendment, Amendment #680.**

- **Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children program (EAEDC) amendment:** Senator Pat Jehlen filed [Amendment #453](#) to remove the EAEDC homelessness penalty so that participants experiencing homelessness receive full monthly grants of \$303.70/month instead of only \$92.80/month. Based on FY'18 numbers year-to-date, an estimated 542 individuals would benefit each month from this change, at a cost of only \$1.4 million/year. The amendment would add language to line item 4408-1000. Please see our EAEDC amendment fact sheet attached and online at <https://tinyurl.com/eaedc-senate>. **Please cosponsor and actively support the EAEDC amendment, Amendment #453.**

Please see our Senate budget amendment page for additional details:
<http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/item/fy-19-senate-budget-amendments>

Thank you so much for helping to lay the groundwork for the positive budget recommendations and your ongoing work to improve the budget even more to address and end homelessness!

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