



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

**Youth Without Homes Can't Wait: Please Sign on to Both of Representative O'Day's Youth Homelessness Amendments to Push for \$4 Million in the FY'18 Budget for Housing and Services (Amendment #1088) and \$150,000 to Continue the Work of the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Amendment #1013)**



**Building upon the momentum from the January 2015 signing of the unaccompanied youth homelessness bill into law (Chapter 6A, Sections 16W and 16X of the Massachusetts General Laws) and the Legislature's provision of \$2 million for housing and services for unaccompanied youth in FY'17, we are seeking \$4 million in the FY'18 budget to address the housing and support service needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness, and \$150,000 for the ongoing work of the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.**

#### Requests:

- **Cosponsor Amendment #1088: \$4 million for housing and wraparound services for unaccompanied youth under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) line item, 4000-0007.** (This is \$2 million above the Governor's FY'18 request of level funding, and \$4 million above the House Ways and Means recommendation.)
  - The additional housing and service resources would be **targeted to youth and young adults age 24 and younger who are experiencing homelessness out on their own**, outside the custody or care of a parent/guardian.
  - EOHHS first signed performance-based contracts with providers in April 2016, and recently released an initial analysis of the positive impact of the funds that were awarded to eight regions of the state.
- **Cosponsor Amendment #1013: \$150,000 to support the ongoing work of the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and the annual Youth Count, via the EOHHS administrative line item, 4000-0300.**

#### Why Now?

There is a desperate need for increased housing, shelter, and service options for youth and young adults age 24 or younger who are living outside the custody and care of their parents or guardians. We know all too well that youth homelessness takes its toll on both the youth and our society at large. People who experience homelessness as adolescents often face bleak outcomes. While many youth are resilient and are able to overcome the ravages of homelessness, homelessness often leads to poor health outcomes including increased risk of death, exposure to violence, susceptibility to exploitation and high risk behaviors, and poor academic performance with increased risk of dropping out of school.

In May 2016, under the leadership of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and in partnership with youth and youth providers, the state conducted its third annual statewide youth homelessness survey through the Continua of Care networks. 1,965 of the young people who participated in the survey were under the age of 25, and of those young people, 48.3% (949 youth and young adults) indicated that they had experienced homelessness in the past or present, and 25.5% (502 youth and young adults) indicated that they currently were experiencing homelessness. The results are helping to shed more light on the extent of youth homelessness and the needs of young people here in the Commonwealth. See the reverse side for some data from the survey.

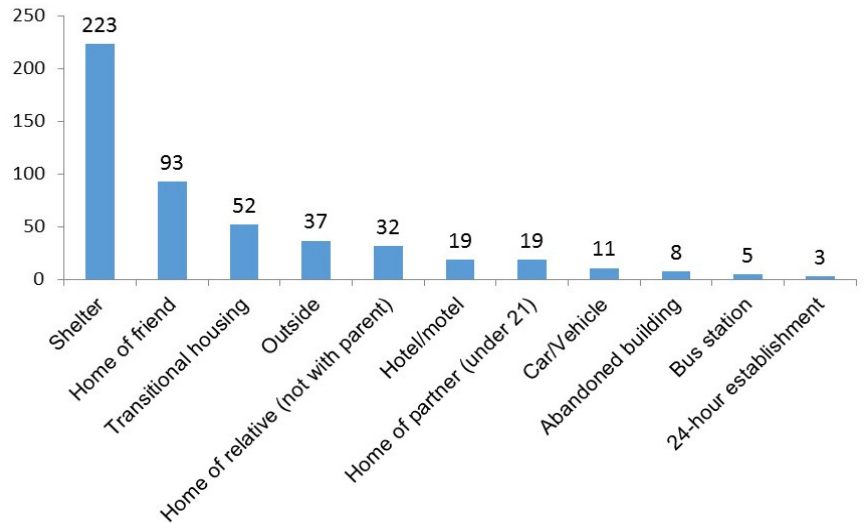
We know that the time to act is now. **The \$4 million requested for FY'18 will provide much-needed resources to build up a systematic, effective response to unaccompanied youth homelessness in all regions of Massachusetts, and the \$150,000 will support the ongoing work of the Commission and its annual Massachusetts Youth Count.**

**Current amendment #1088 co-sponsors:** Representatives O'Day (lead sponsor), Barber, Brodeur, Cabral, Campanale, Cantwell, Collins Day, Decker, Donahue, DuBois, Dwyer, Garballey, Gentile, Goldstein-Rose, Hecht, Heroux, Higgins, Honan, Kane, Keefe, Khan, Lawn, Linsky, Mark, Moran, Provost, Scibak, Tosado, Ultrino, Vincent, and Walsh. **Current amendment #1013 co-sponsors:** Representatives O'Day (lead sponsor), Ashe, Balsler, Barber, Brodeur, Cabral, Campanale, Campbell, Cantwell, Collins, Day, Decker, Donahue, Dwyer, Ferguson, Garballey, Gentile, Hecht, Heroux, Higgins, Kane, Keefe, Khan, Lawn, Linsky, Livingstone, Matias, Moran, Peisch, Poirier, Provost, Smizik, Tosado, Ultrino, Vega, and Walsh

## Organizational Endorsers

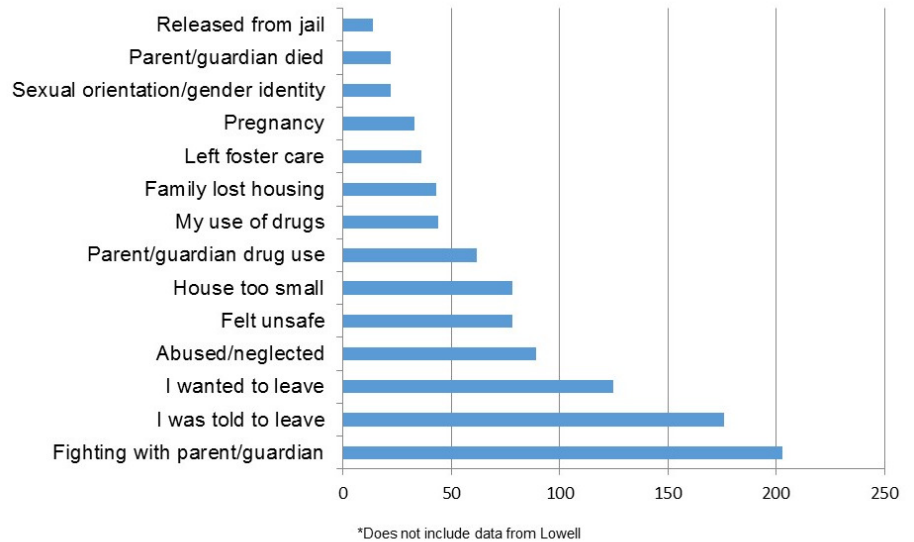
Action for Boston Community Development
Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Cambridge and Somerville Housing and Welfare Coalition
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
Children's League of Massachusetts
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
Community Teamwork
DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services
Domus Incorporated
Homeless Youth Providers Engaging Together
Homes for Families
Horizons for Homeless Children
Justice Resource Institute/YouthHarbors
LUK, Inc.
Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
MassEquality
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
Poor People's United Fund
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
Samaritans Steps
School on Wheels
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
Y2Y Harvard Square

## Where the Youth and Young Adults Currently Experiencing Homelessness Slept the Night Before Taking the Youth Count Survey (n = 502)



## Main Reasons Youth and Young Adults Were Unaccompanied and Experiencing Homelessness

(\*Respondents could select more than one response)



**Youth without homes can't wait! Please actively support a \$4 million investment in housing and services for unaccompanied youth and \$150,000 for the work of the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in FY'18! Cosponsor and speak up for Representative O'Day's amendments, Amendments #1088 and #1013!**

- April 21, 2017

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley, Associate Director, at [kelly@mahomeless.org](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or 781-595-7570 x17.

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