



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Take action: Please cosponsor and actively support key housing stability, shelter access, and cash assistance amendments to the FY25 Senate budget

- **[Amendment #240](#), "Improvements to the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program," from Senator Gomez.** This amendment to Line Item 7004-9316 would:
 - Allow eligible households to access up to \$10,000 in Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) funds in a 12-month period, up from the current cap of \$7,000
 - Prohibit the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) from imposing a notice to quit requirement on households seeking assistance with back rent and move RAFT benefits upstream
 - Require direct-to-tenant payments in cases where the landlord is not cooperative with the RAFT application and documentation process
 - Direct EOHLC to provide forward rent payments for eligible households if the award would not exceed the 12-month benefit cap
- **[Amendment #241](#), "Improvements to Emergency Assistance for Children and Families," from Senator Gomez.** This amendment to Line Item 7004-0101 would:
 - Expand tracking and reporting language to include more data on families placed on the Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter waiting list
 - Require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to make every effort to immediately place families approved for EA in traditional shelters, hotels/motels, or overflow spaces
 - Create an ombudsperson unit within EOHLC, with language similar to that which was enacted with the FY22 budget
 - Officially remove the EA asset limit
- **[Amendment #325](#), "Somerville Pilot to Prevent Older Adults from Experiencing Homelessness," from Senator Jehlen.** This amendment to Line Item 7004-0107 would add \$100,000 to the Local Housing Programs Earmarks account to launch a bridge subsidy pilot program for low-income older adults, ages 60+, in the City of Somerville who are at risk of eviction.
- **[Amendment #323](#), "Improvements to HomeBASE," from Senator Jehlen.** This amendment to Line Item 7004-0108 would allow families to renew HomeBASE benefits beyond 3 years if needed and provide upstream access to benefits to prevent the loss of existing housing and to promote housing stability.
- **[Amendment #893](#), "Identification for youth and adults experiencing homelessness," from Senator R. Kennedy.** This amendment to Line Item 1595-6368 would add \$75,000 to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund to provide no-cost Mass IDs to youth and adults experiencing homelessness. It would build on legislation unanimously passed by the Senate in July 2023: [S.2251](#), An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness.
- **[Amendment #578](#), "Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty," from Senator DiDomenico.** This amendment would make changes to the Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC, Line Item 4408-1000) and Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC, Line Item 4403-2000)

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cash assistance programs. This amendment would move up the start date for 10% grant increases for EAEDC and TAFDC from April 2025 to October 2024 and provide more funding in the accounts to pay for the additional months of grant increases. It would increase EAEDC funding by \$9 million to \$192,182,092 and TAFDC funding by \$20 million to \$516,214,609.

- **[Amendment #603](#), "Clarifying Time Limit Implementation Date for Family Shelter," from Senator Payano.** This amendment would add an outside section to clarify that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities should not consider Emergency Assistance family shelter benefits received prior to June 1, 2024 in calculating participants' eligibility for ongoing EA shelter benefits. This is in response to EOHLC announcing that the 9-month time limit on shelter benefits that was included in the April FY24 supplemental budget (Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) would be calculated retroactively for families already in shelter as of June 1, 2024.
- **[Amendment #337](#), "EA Asset Limits," from Senator Eldridge.** This amendment would add an outside section to the budget to officially remove the Emergency Assistance program asset limit.
- **[Amendment #218](#), "Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program," from Senator Lovely.** This amendment would add a new outside section to:
 - Codify Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, funded through Line Item 7004-9024) into state statute
 - Ensure that any unspent funds from one fiscal year would be carried into the next fiscal year
 - Enshrine the ability to use Small Area Fair Market Rents in determining payment standards
 - Require inspections of units before the initial assistance payments are made and at least every two years after that
 - Provide administering agencies with at least \$80/voucher/month
 - Require data collection and reporting
- **[Amendment #577](#), "State-funded SNAP Assistance," from Senator DiDomenico.** This amendment would add a line item under the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to provide \$12 million for state-funded food benefits for certain immigrants who have Lawful Permanent Resident status, are permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL status), or are humanitarian parolees. It also would require DTA to provide training to their staff so they can thoroughly screen families and individuals for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits before approving households for benefits from the limited state-funded program.
- **[Amendment #552](#), "TAFDC Clothing Allowance," from Senator DiDomenico.** This amendment to Line Item 4403-2000 would increase the annual children's clothing allowance in the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program from \$450/eligible child to \$500. It also would increase the funding for the line item by \$3.5 million.
- **[Amendment #282](#), "Boston Area Youth - Cash Assistance For Stable Housing," from Senator Edwards.** This amendment to Line Item 4000-0007 would earmark \$100,000 in the unaccompanied youth homelessness housing and services program for the launch of [BAY-CASH](#), to provide direct cash assistance to unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness.

See the Coalition's FY25 budget chart for more details and links: <https://tinyurl.com/mchfy2025>

Thank you for your leadership in the work to prevent and end homelessness!

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