



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 House budget**

- [Amendment #790](#), "**Improvements to the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program**," from **Representative Decker**. This amendment would earmark \$10 million within the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition account (RAFT, line item 7704-9316) to provide grants above the general \$7,000/household/year cap to families and individuals when the administering agency determines that a higher grant is essential to resolve a housing crisis; 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; and direct EOHLC to provide forward rent payments for eligible households as long as the award would not exceed the 12-month benefit cap.
- [Amendment #789](#), "**Improvements to Emergency Assistance for Children and Families**," from **Representative Decker**. This amendment would expand tracking and reporting language in line item 7004-0101 to include data on families placed on the Emergency Assistance (EA) waiting list; create an ombudsperson unit within EOHLC, with language similar to that which was enacted with the FY22 budget; and officially remove the EA asset limit.
- [Amendment #1075](#), "**Prevent Older Adults from Experiencing Homelessness**," from **Representative Uyterhoeven**. This amendment would add \$10 million to the budget in a new line item under the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (line item 9110-XXXX) for a short-term housing bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults, ages sixty and older, at risk of housing instability or homelessness.
- [Amendment #1302](#), "**Housing and Services for Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness**," from **Representative O'Day**. This amendment would increase funding for the youth homelessness program, line item 4000-0007, by almost \$1.5 million, to provide \$12 million in FY25.
- [Amendment #737](#), "**Improvements to HomeBASE**," from **Representative Barber**. This amendment would make changes to line item 7004-0108 to allow families to renew HomeBASE benefits beyond 3 years if needed; allow families to increase their income and stay in HomeBASE longer than 12 months; provide upstream access to benefits to prevent loss of existing housing and promote housing stability; allow households to maximize resources from RAFT, HomeBASE, and other rental assistance programs; and add language to carry over unspent FY24 funds into FY25.
- [Amendment #788](#), "**Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty**," from **Representative Decker**. This amendment would make changes to the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children

(TAFDC, line item 4403-2000) and Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC, line item 4408-1000) cash assistance programs. This amendment would provide 10% grant increases for TAFDC and EAEDC participants starting in October 2024 and provide additional funding in the accounts to pay for the grant increases. For EAEDC, the amendment would increase the funding by \$13 million to \$191,982,092. For TAFDC, the amendment would increase the funding by \$21 million to \$517,214,609.

- **[Amendment #299](#), "Identification for youth and adults experiencing homelessness," from Representative O'Day.** This amendment would add \$75,000 in line item 1595-6368 to provide free Mass IDs to people experiencing homelessness. It also would add an outside section to establish fee waiver and documentation standards for youth and adults experiencing homelessness to access standard Mass IDs.
- **[Amendment #667](#), "The Alternative Housing Voucher Program," from Representative Consalvo.** This amendment would increase proposed funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) by \$500,000 to \$16,855,696 in line item 7004-9030.
- **[Amendment #1479](#), "Access to Counsel," from Representative D. Rogers.** This amendment would make changes to line item 0321-1800 to make the proposed access to counsel pilot program statewide; ensure that participants receive full legal representation and not just partial assistance; and clarify that the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation should collaborate with an advisory committee to determine how to implement the program.
- **[Amendment #247](#), "State-funded SNAP Assistance," from Representative Cabral.** This amendment would provide \$30 million in line item 4400-1032 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 the Department of Transitional Assistance 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 #660](#), "Boston Area Youth - Cash Assistance for Stable Housing," from Representative Owens.** This amendment would earmark \$100,000 in the youth homelessness account (line item 4000-0007) for the launch of BAY-CASH, to provide direct cash assistance to unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness. Learn more about BAY-CASH here: <https://www.baycash.org/>.

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

**Thanks 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](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or 781-595-7570 x17.