



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Take action: Please cosponsor and actively support key FY24 Senate amendments on homelessness prevention, housing stability, shelter access, and cash assistance!

- **[Amendment #215](#), "Residential Assistance for Families in Transition," from Senator Gomez.** This amendment would retain the current \$10,000/year cap on benefits, instead of reducing the cap to \$7,000/year. The amendment also would increase RAFT funding by \$55 million to provide \$250 million in direct appropriations for RAFT in FY24.
- **[Amendment #422](#), "Improvements to the RAFT Homelessness Program," from Senator Rausch.** This amendment would 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 households without rental arrearages; and direct EOHLC to provide multiple months of assistance as long as the award would not exceed the 12-month benefit cap.
- **[Amendment #217](#), "Improvements to Emergency Assistance for Children and Families," from Senator Gomez.** This amendment would increase the income eligibility limit from 115% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) to 200% FPG for families applying for Emergency Assistance; increase the income limit for families already in EA shelter from 200% FPG to 285% FPG; restore the FY22 language to establish an ombudsperson unit to assist families applying for and participating in EA and HomeBASE; eliminate the EA asset limit; and direct the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to make every effort to place families in their own room while in shelter to increase privacy and dignity and improve public health.
- **[Amendment #397](#), "Rental Bridge Subsidies for Older Adults," from Senator Jehlen.** This amendment would add \$10 million to a new line item, 9110-XXXX, to establish a short-term housing bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults (age 60 and over) facing housing instability. The funding would allow up to 1,000 older adults to access bridge subsidies so they can remain in place while they await approval for state-funded public housing or a subsidy through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs, in collaboration with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, would administer the bridge subsidy program.
- **[Amendment #555](#), "Unaccompanied Homeless Youth," from Senator R. Kennedy.** This amendment would increase funding for the youth homelessness line item by \$1 million to provide \$12 million in FY24 for housing and services for youth and young adults under the age of 25 who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability.
- **[Amendment #323](#), "Improvements to HomeBASE," from Senator Jehlen.** This amendment would make critical changes to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities'

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HomeBASE rehousing program for families with children who have experienced homelessness. It would increase the value of HomeBASE subsidies to \$30,000 over 2 years, up from the proposed level of \$20,000 over 2 years, while maintaining Senate Ways and Means' language directing the Executive Office to use at least \$10 million to support families that need more funding beyond the cap. This increase is vital given the high cost of housing in every region of the Commonwealth, which has made it exceedingly difficult for families to lease up or stay leased up with HomeBASE assistance. Finally, the amendment would carry over any unspent FY23 HomeBASE funds into FY24.

- **[Amendment #851](#), "Identification for youth and adults experiencing homelessness," from Senator R. Kennedy.** This amendment would add an outside section to establish fee waiver and documentation standards for youth and adults experiencing homelessness to access free standard Mass IDs from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- **[Amendment #279](#), "Eliminate Asset Limits for Homeless Shelters," from Senator Eldridge.** This amendment would prohibit the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities from imposing an asset limit for Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter eligibility. Historically, EA has followed the asset limit regulations for the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (TAFDC). The Legislature eliminated the TAFDC asset limit in the FY22 budget, but the Department of Housing and Community Development, which currently oversees EA, continues to impose a \$5,000 cap on assets for families applying for or participating in the EA program.
- **[Amendment #195](#), "Local Public Housing Authorities," from Senator Miranda.** This amendment would increase funding for public housing operating subsidies by \$18 million to \$125 million.
- **[Amendment #363](#), "State-funded SNAP Assistance and TAFDC Benefits for Non-citizens," from Senator DiDomenico.** This amendment would restore state-funded food and cash assistance benefits to certain immigrants who have Lawful Permanent Resident status or otherwise are permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL status). The programs would provide food assistance to families and individuals who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and cash assistance to families and individuals who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. The amendment also seeks to fund food assistance at \$15 million and cash assistance at \$3 million.
- **[Amendment #176](#), "Tenancy Protections," from Senator Edwards.** This amendment would build upon Senate Ways and Means' restoration of Chapter 257 eviction protections by adding in language to direct the court to dismiss a landlord's claim if the tenant has been approved for emergency rental assistance and has paid off their arrearage in full. It also would allow those tenants to petition the court to seal their eviction records, after any appeal periods have expired.

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

For more information, please see the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' FY24 budget chart: <https://tinyurl.com/mchfy24> or contact Kelly Turley: kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.