



Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

**Take action: Please cosponsor and actively support key homelessness prevention, housing, and cash assistance amendments to the FY27 House budget**

- Amendment #1707, "Upstream Homelessness Prevention," from Representative Decker:** This amendment would make changes to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition homelessness prevention program line item (RAFT, line item 7004-9316) to increase the annual cap on RAFT benefits to \$10,000 per household from \$7,000 per household; move access to RAFT more "upstream" by prohibiting the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) from requiring a notice to quit from families and individuals seeking help with back rent or requiring a utility shut-off notice from families and individuals seeking help with back utility bills; require EOHLC to offer direct-to-tenant payments in cases where the property owner is unresponsive or refuses payment; direct EOHLC to provide forward rent payments if the award would not exceed the 12-month benefit cap; and ensure equal access for households living in public or subsidized housing.
- Amendment #1694, "Access to Emergency Shelter," from Representative Decker:** This amendment would increase access to the Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter program. It would restore presumptive eligibility for families who appear to be eligible for shelter but need more time to gather the requested documentation to prove ongoing eligibility; require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to make same-day placements for families who lack feasible, alternative housing; and provide families with an initial eligibility period of 9 months instead of the current 6-month period.
- Amendment #1671, "Rental Bridge Subsidies for Older Adults," from Representative Erika Uytterhoeven and Representative Shirley Arriaga:** This amendment would establish a new line item under the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to expand the short-term housing bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults, aged sixty or older, who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness and add \$7.5 million to fund the expansion.
- Amendment #542, "Improvements to HomeBASE," from Representative Christine Barber:** This amendment would make changes to the HomeBASE rehousing program (line item 7004-0108) to increase the cap on benefits to \$50,000 per family over their first two years in the program, up from \$30,000, and increase the cap to \$25,000 in subsequent years, up from \$15,000. It also would provide upstream access to HomeBASE benefits to prevent loss of existing housing and promote housing stability for families with children who otherwise would be eligible for the Emergency Assistance family shelter program.
- Amendment #812, "Housing and Services for Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness," from Representative Jim O'Day:** This amendment would increase funding for the youth homelessness line item (4000-0007) to \$12 million for FY27. It would provide almost \$1.6 million above the FY27 House Ways and Means proposed funding level of \$10,439,590. The current FY26 appropriation, with earmarks, is \$10,645,850. This line item supports youth and young adults under the age of 25 in every region of the Commonwealth who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness on their own, without their parent or guardian.
- Amendment #828, "Identification for youth and adults experiencing homelessness," from Representative Jim O'Day and Representative Sean Garballey:** This amendment would add \$50,000 to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund (line item 1595-6368) to provide free standard Mass IDs to eligible people experiencing homelessness. The amendment also would add an outside section to establish

fee waiver and documentation practices so youth and adults experiencing homelessness can access standard Mass IDs from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

- **Amendment #1024, "EAEDC Asset Limit," from Representative Jim O'Day:** This amendment would add an outside section to the budget to change state statute on the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children program (EAEDC, Chapter 117A of the Massachusetts General Laws and line item 4408-1000). It would require the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to provide annual cost of living adjustments to EAEDC participants. It also would increase grant levels to match the benefits provided under DTA's Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.
- **Amendment #35, "MRVP," from Representative Adrienne Ramos:** This amendment would increase funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, line item 7004-9024) to \$300 million for MRVP mobile and project-based subsidies in FY27. It would build on House Ways and Means' proposed FY27 funding level of \$281,341,728 by adding almost \$19 million more for the program. The current FY26 appropriation is \$253,311,840.
- **Amendment #1721, "Lift Our Kids," from Representative Marjorie Decker:** This amendment would improve 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 2026 and increase the annual TAFDC clothing allowance to \$500 per child, up from \$450 per child as proposed by House Ways and Means. In FY26, families received clothing allowances of \$500 per child.
- **Amendment #527, "Prevent Older Adults from Experiencing Homelessness," from Representative Erika Uytterhoeven:** This amendment would add \$30,000 to the Local Housing Programs Earmarks line item (7004-0107) to support the continuation of the Somerville short-term housing bridge subsidy pilot program for low-income older adults, aged sixty or older, who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness. This pilot program is connected to the Coalition's ongoing campaign to establish a statewide bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults. The current FY26 appropriations for this program are \$200,000 for subsidies and \$20,000 for program administration.
- **Amendment #1451, "EA Shelter Eligibility," from Representative Rob Consalvo:** This amendment would increase the income eligibility limit for Emergency Assistance shelter to 120% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) instead of 115% FPG to allow more families with children to access needed shelter and support services.
- **Amendment #1419, "Access to Counsel," from Representative Dave Rogers:** This amendment would increase funding for the Access to Counsel Program line item (0321-1800) to \$4 million in FY27. It would build on House Ways and Means' proposed FY27 funding level of \$3 million by adding \$1 million more for the program. The current FY26 appropriation is \$2.5 million. The Access to Counsel Program provides legal representation and support to eligible low-income tenants/occupants and owner-occupants who are going through the eviction process.
- **Amendment #1291, "Access to Counsel," from Representative Michael Day and Representative Dave Rogers:** This amendment would add an outside section to put the Access to Counsel Program for eviction cases into state statute.

Please see the Coalition's FY27 budget chart for more details, additional important amendments, and links: <https://tinyurl.com/mchfy27>. **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](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or 781-595-7570 x17.