

FY2016 Conference Committee Budget Analysis for CHAPA Priorities

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July 9, 2015

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BUILDING BLOCKS PRIORITIES

Included below are details on the Building Blocks Coalition budget priorities with, when necessary, a more thorough description. The budget language is included when comparisons between the FY2015 budget and FY2016 Conference budget are helpful. Additions and deletions in the line-item language are highlighted in blue and red, respectively.

CHAPA's budget priorities include these Building Blocks priorities and those included in the second section of this report.

The budget bill, H.3650, can be accessed here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H3650>.

Building Blocks Priorities Summary

Program	FY2016 Conference Budget	FY2015	Difference
Housing Registry	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 0
Home & Healthy for Good	\$ 1,800,000 (w/ \$200,000 in earmarks)	\$ 1,800,000 (w/ \$200,000 in earmarks)	\$ 0
HomeBASE	\$ 31,249,331	\$ 28,955,535	\$ 2,293,796
HCECs	\$ 2,891,992 (w/ \$250,000 in earmarks)	\$ 2,141,992 (w/ \$350,000 in earmarks)	\$ 750,000
Tenancy Pres.	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
Public Housing	\$ 64,500,000 (w/ \$500,000 in earmarks)	\$ 64,035,000 (w/ \$35,000 in earmarks)	\$ 465,000
MRVP	\$ 90,931,597	\$ 65,000,000	\$ 25,931,597
AHVP	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 3,550,000	\$ 1,050,000
RAFT	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 1,500,000
Foreclosure Counseling	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 2,650,000	\$ (300,000)
HPSTF	\$ 11,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 11,500,000

Housing Registry (4120-4001)

FY16 Conference: \$ 80,000
FY2015: \$ 80,000
Difference: \$ 0

Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)

FY16 Conference: \$ 1,800,000 (w/ \$200,000 in earmarks)
FY2015: \$ 1,800,000 (w/ \$200,000 in earmarks)
Difference: \$ 0

The FY2016 Conference budget includes \$200,000 to continue funding a program for unaccompanied homeless LGBTQ young adults.

HomeBASE (7004-0108)

FY16 Conference: \$ 31,249,331
FY2015: \$ 28,955,535
Difference: \$ 2,293,796

The FY2016 Conference budget language allows for forward funding of [HomeBASE](#) and increases the cap on total resources a family can receive from HomeBASE to \$8,000, including combined resources from RAFT.

FY2015	FY2016 Conference Committee Budget
For a program of short-term housing assistance to help families eligible for temporary emergency shelter under item 7004-0101 in addressing obstacles to maintaining or securing housing; provided, that the assistance provided under this item shall include not less than 12 months of housing stabilization and economic self-sufficiency case management services for each family receiving benefits hereunder; provided further, that not later than September 1, 2014, the department shall establish a maximum level of short-term housing assistance available to families under this item for a 12-month period; provided further, that until a maximum family benefit is established by the department, the maximum family benefit available shall be \$6,000; provided further, that the department shall not	For a program of short-term housing assistance to help families eligible for temporary emergency shelter under item 7004-0101 in addressing obstacles to maintaining or securing housing; provided, that the assistance provided under this item shall include not less than 12 months of housing stabilization and economic self-sufficiency case management services for each family receiving benefits hereunder; provided further, that not later than September 1, 2014, the department shall establish a maximum level of short-term housing assistance available to families under this item for a 12-month period; provided further, that until a maximum family benefit is established by the department, the maximum family benefit available shall be \$6,000; provided further, that the department shall not

<p>establish a maximum level of short-term housing assistance available to families under this item for a 12-month period less than \$6,000; provided further, that in establishing a maximum family benefit, the department shall prioritize maximizing diversions and exits from the emergency assistance system; provided further, that the combined sum of benefits received by a family in a 12-month period from this item and item 7004-9316 shall not be more than the maximum level of short-term housing assistance established by the department; provided further, that so long as they meet the requirements of their housing stabilization plan, a family that received household assistance under this item whose income exceeds 50 per cent of area median income shall not become ineligible for assistance due to exceeding the income limit for a period of 6 months from the date that the 50 per cent level was exceeded; provided further, that a family shall not be deemed ineligible as a result of any single violation of a self-sufficiency plan; provided further, that the department shall take all steps necessary to enforce regulations to prevent abuse in the short-term housing transition program including a wage match agreement with the department of revenue; provided further, that a family that was terminated from the program or did not make a good faith effort to follow its housing stabilization plan during the term of its assistance shall be ineligible for benefits under this item and item 7004-0101 for 24 months from the last date the family received assistance under this item and item 7004-0101, including housing stabilization and economic self-sufficiency case management services; provided further, that a family's housing stabilization plan shall adequately accommodate the ages and disabilities of the family members; provided further, that families receiving benefits under this program who are found ineligible for continuing benefits shall be eligible for aid pending a timely appeal under chapter 23B of</p>	<p>establish a maximum level of short-term housing assistance available to families under this item for a 12-month period less than \$6,000; provided further, that in establishing a maximum family benefit, the department shall prioritize maximizing diversions and exits from the emergency assistance system; <u>provided further, that no other assistance from this item shall exceed \$8,000 in a 12-month period; provided further, that a family shall not receive more than a combined sum of \$8,000 in a 12-month period from this item and item 7004-9316;</u> provided further, that so long as they meet the requirements of their housing stabilization plan, a family that received household assistance pursuant to this item whose income exceeds 50 per cent of area median income shall not become ineligible for assistance due to exceeding the income limit for a period of 6 months from the date that the 50 per cent level was exceeded; provided further, that a family shall not be deemed ineligible as a result of any single violation of a self-sufficiency plan; provided further, that the department shall take all steps necessary to enforce regulations to prevent abuse in the short-term housing transition program, including a wage match agreement with the department of revenue; provided further, that a family that was terminated from the program or did not make a good faith effort to follow its housing stabilization plan during the term of its assistance shall be ineligible for benefits pursuant to item 7004-0101 and this item for 24 months from the last date the family received assistance pursuant to item 7004-0101 and this item, including housing stabilization and economic self-sufficiency case management services; provided further, that a family's housing stabilization plan shall adequately accommodate the ages and disabilities of the family members; provided further, that families receiving benefits under this program who are found ineligible for continuing benefits shall be eligible for aid</p>
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<p>the General Laws; provided further, that families who are denied assistance under this item may appeal that denial under said chapter 23B, including subsection (F) of section 30 of said chapter 23B and regulations adopted to implement said chapter 23B; provided further, that benefits under this item shall only be provided to residents of the commonwealth who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing under color of the law in the United States; provided further, that the department, as a condition of continued eligibility for assistance under this program, may require disclosure of social security numbers by all members of a family receiving assistance hereunder for use in verification of income with other agencies, departments and executive offices; provided further, that if a family member fails to provide a social security number for use in verifying the family's income and eligibility, then the family shall no longer be eligible to receive benefits from this program; provided further, that the department shall administer this program through the following agencies unless administering agencies are otherwise procured by the department: the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc.; Community Teamwork, Inc.; the Housing Assistance Corporation; the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority; HAP, Inc.; Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc.; the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development; South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.; the South Shore Housing Development Corporation; and RCAP Solutions, Inc.; provided further, that the department shall reallocate financing based on performance-based statistics from under-performing service providers to above average service providers in order to move as many families from hotels, motels, or shelters into more</p>	<p>pending a timely appeal pursuant to chapter 23B of the General Laws; provided further, that families who are denied assistance pursuant to this item may appeal that denial pursuant to said chapter 23B, including subsection (F) of section 30 of said chapter 23B and regulations adopted to implement said chapter 23B; provided further, that benefits under this item shall only be provided to residents of the commonwealth who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing under color of the law in the United States; provided further, that the department, as a condition of continued eligibility for assistance pursuant to this program, may require disclosure of social security numbers by all members of a family receiving assistance hereunder for use in verification of income with other agencies, departments and executive offices; provided further, that if a family member fails to provide a social security number for use in verifying the family's income and eligibility, then the family shall no longer be eligible to receive benefits from this program; provided further, that the department shall administer this program through the following agencies unless administering agencies are otherwise procured by the department: the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc.; Community Teamwork, Inc.; the Housing Assistance Corporation; the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority; HAP, Inc.; Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc.; the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development; South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.; the South Shore Housing Development Corporation; and RCAP Solutions, Inc.; provided further, that the department shall reallocate financing based on performance-based statistics from under-performing service providers to above average service providers in order to move as many families</p>
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<p>sustainable housing; provided further, that the department shall use funds provided for this program for stabilization workers to focus efforts on housing retention, and link households to supports including job training, education, job search and childcare opportunities available and may enter into agreements with other public and private agencies for the provision of such services, and that a stabilization worker shall be assigned to each household; provided further, that this item shall be subject to appropriation and, in the event of a deficiency, nothing in this item shall give rise to or shall be construed as giving rise to any enforceable right or entitlement to services in excess of the amounts appropriated in this item; provided further, that funds shall be used to transition families served by the program to more rapidly move them into temporary or permanent sustainable housing; provided further, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 60 days before promulgating or amending any regulations, administrative practice, or policy that would alter eligibility for or the level of benefits under this program to less than the benefit level available on June 30, 2014, the department shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate a report setting forth the justification for such changes, including, but not limited to, any determination by the secretary of housing and economic development that available appropriations will be insufficient to meet projected expenses; and provided further, that the department shall submit quarterly reports to the house and senate committees on ways and means, which shall include the number of families served, the type of assistance given, the number of families assisted through this program, the average, minimum and maximum cost per family of such assistance, the current housing stability of each family who received</p>	<p>from hotels, motels or shelters into more sustainable housing; provided further, that the department shall use funds provided for this program for stabilization workers to focus efforts on housing retention, and link households to supports including job training, education, job search and childcare opportunities available and may enter into agreements with other public and private agencies for the provision of such services, and that a stabilization worker shall be assigned to each household; provided further, that funds shall be used to transition families served by the program to more rapidly move them into temporary or permanent sustainable housing; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 60 days before promulgating or amending any regulation, administrative practice or policy that would alter eligibility for or the level of benefits pursuant to this program to less than the benefit level available on June 30, 2014 2015, the department shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate a report setting forth the justification for such changes, including, but not limited to, any determination by the secretary of housing and economic development that available appropriations will be insufficient to meet projected expenses; provided further, that this item shall be subject to appropriation and, in the event of a deficiency, nothing in this item shall give rise to or shall be construed as giving rise to any enforceable right or entitlement to services in excess of the amounts appropriated herein; and provided further, that the department shall submit quarterly reports to the house and senate committees on ways and means, which shall include the number of families served, the type of assistance given, the number of families assisted through this program, the average, minimum and maximum cost per family of such assistance, the current housing</p>
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assistance within the prior 12 months and any obstacles encountered with the administration of this program	stability of each family who received assistance within the prior 12 months and any obstacles encountered with the administration of this program; <u>and provided further, that household assistance funds shall be advanced to the administering agencies at the end of each month and prior to the next month's disbursement, the amount of which shall be estimated based on the prior month's expenditure with a reconciliation not less than annually</u>
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Housing Consumer Education Centers (7004-3036)

FY16 Conference: \$ 2,891,992 (w/ \$250,000 in earmarks)
 FY2015: \$ 2,141,992 (w/ \$350,000 in earmarks)
 Difference: \$ 750,000

The FY2016 Conference budget restores funding for [HCECs](#) to FY2014 levels.

Tenancy Preservation Program (7004-3045)

FY16 Conference: \$ 500,000
 FY2015: \$ 500,000
 Difference: \$ 0

Public Housing Authority Operating (7004-9005)

FY16 Conference: \$ 64,500,000 (w/ \$500,000 in earmarks)
 FY2015: \$ 64,035,000 (w/ \$35,000 in earmarks)
 Difference: \$ 465,000

The FY2016 Conference budget provides a \$500,000 earmark to implement public housing reform passed during the last legislative session.

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (7004-9024)

FY16 Conference: \$ 90,931,597
 FY2015: \$ 65,000,000
 Difference: \$ 25,931,597

The FY2016 Conference budget appropriation of \$90.9 million includes a transfer of up to \$8 million in unexpended [MRVP](#) funds from FY2015 to FY2016. The additional funding for

MRVP will maintain the current number of vouchers in use and will allow for the release of about 800 new vouchers.

Alternative Housing Voucher Program (7004-9030)

FY16 Conference:	\$ 4,600,000
FY2015:	\$ 3,550,000
Difference:	\$ 1,050,000

The FY2016 Conference budget includes language changes to remove the word “transitional” from the [AHVP](#) line-item to better align the program language with its actual use. The budget also allows AHVP to \$5 million in FY2016

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (7004-9316)

FY16 Conference:	\$ 12,500,000
FY2015:	\$ 11,000,000
Difference:	\$ 1,500,000

The FY2016 Conference budget does not allow for forward funding of [RAFT](#).

Foreclosure Counseling (7006-0011)

FY16 Conference:	\$ 2,350,000
FY2015:	\$ 2,650,000
Difference:	\$ (300,000)

Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF)

FY16 Conference:	\$ 11,500,000
FY2015:	\$ 0
Difference:	\$ 11,500,000

The FY2016 Conference budget appropriates \$11.5 million for [HPSTF](#) through a transfer of \$6.5 million from programs administered by MassHousing and \$3.5 million from the General Fund. Outside Section 189 of the Conference budget directs an unspecified amount of funds from HPSTF to be expended for Secure Jobs program (7004-9322).

CHAPA & OTHER PRIORITIES

Program	FY2016 Conference Budget
End Family Homelessness Reserve Fund (New)	\$ 1,000,000
Housing Authority Self Sufficiency Program	Not included
Emergency Assistance	\$155,058,948 (w/ \$185,000 in earmarks)
Community Preservation Act	Allows for \$10,000,000 transfer
State Earned Income Tax Credit	Increased to 23% of federal credit
Housing Court	Expansion not included
Transformative Development Fund (New)	\$1,000,000

End Family Homelessness Reserve Fund (New) (1599-0017)

FY16 Conference: \$ 1,000,000

The FY2016 Conference budget creates the Reserve Fund at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and targets homeless families and families at risk of homelessness. The Reserve Fund requires coordination among EOHHS, DHCD, and existing programs.

Housing Authority Self-Sufficiency Pilot Program (New) (7004-0114)

The FY2016 Conference budget does not create a housing authority self-sufficiency pilot program that was included in the final FY2016 Senate budget proposal.

Emergency Assistance (7004-0101)

FY16 Conference: \$ 155,058,948 (w/ \$185,000 in earmarks)
FY2015: \$ 191,799,718 (includes supplemental budget)
Difference: \$ (36,740,770)

The FY2016 Conference budget maintains FY2015 eligibility criteria, reporting mandates, and advance notice language.

Community Preservation Act

FY16 Conference: \$ 10,000,000

The FY2016 Conference budget allows for a transfer of up to \$10 million to the [Community Preservation Trust Fund](#) from the budget surplus. The transfer is authorized by Outside Section 194 of the Conference budget.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The FY2016 Conference budget increases the state earned income tax credit from 15% to 23% of the federal credit. The increase is authorized by Outside Section 67 in the Conference budget.

Housing Court

The FY2016 Conference budget does not include an expansion of the [housing court](#).

Transformative Development Fund (New) (7002-1502)

FY16 Conference: \$ 1,000,000

The FY2016 Conference budget creates a new line-item for the [Transformative Development Fund](#) and capitalizes it with \$1,000,000.