

FY2017 Senate Ways and Means Budget Analysis for Building Blocks Priorities

Prepared by Eric Shupin
Citizens' Housing & Planning Association
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BUILDING BLOCKS PRIORITIES

Included below are details on the Building Blocks Coalition budget priorities. The budget language is included when comparisons between the FY2016 budget and Senate Ways and Means budget are helpful. Additions and deletions in the line-item language reflect changes the SWM budget made to the FY2016 language.

The SWM budget can be accessed here: <https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2017/Senate>

Priorities Summary

Program	SWM	FY2016	Difference b/w SWM & FY16	House Budget	BBC Request
MRVP	\$ 100,083,891	\$ 90,931,597	\$ 9,152,294	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 120,000,000
AHVP	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 7,100,000
Public Housing Operating	\$ 64,500,000	\$ 64,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 65,500,000	\$ 72,000,000
Public Housing Reform	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 2,000,000
RAFT	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 18,500,000
HomeBASE	\$ 31,943,664	\$ 33,749,331*	\$ (1,805,667)	\$ 31,943,664	\$ 39,200,000
Foreclosure Couns.	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 3,650,000
Housing Court	\$ 1,194,641	\$ 0	\$ 1,194,641	\$ 0	\$ 1,000,000
Tenancy Pres.	750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 975,000
HCECs	\$ 2,641,992 (no earmarks)	\$ 2,891,992	\$ 0 (no earmarks)	\$ 2,641,992	\$ 2,640,000
Brownfields	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 15,000,000
HPSTF	\$ 0	\$ 11,500,000	\$ (11,500,000)	\$ 0	\$ 11,500,000
Community Pres. Act	\$ 0	\$ 10,000,000	\$ (10,000,000)	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 25,000,000
Home & Healthy for Good	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 3,800,000
Housing Registry	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 0	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Tenancy Stab. Coordinator	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,500,000
Fuel Assistance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,000,000

*Includes \$2.5 million Supplemental Budget

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (7004-9024)

SWM: \$ 100,083,891
FY2016: \$ 90,931,597
Difference: \$ 9,152,294

House: \$ 100,000,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 120,000,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes language preventing the reduction of subsidies because of inspections;
- Removes language allowing DHCD to help housing authorities create a homeless prevention program for families with a voucher who are at risk of displacement to find another housing program; and
- Includes a requirement for DHCD to report on the use of MRVP and AHVP.

Like the House budget, the \$100 million for MRVP includes \$14.7 million in unexpended funds from FY2016.

However, the SWM budget does not include a \$30 base fee for administering vouchers that the House included.

Language:

For a program of rental assistance for low-income families and elderly persons through mobile and project-based vouchers; provided, that such assistance shall only be paid under ~~a program known as~~ the Massachusetts rental voucher program; provided further, that the income of eligible households shall not exceed 50 per cent of the area median income; provided further, that the department of housing and community development may award mobile vouchers to eligible households currently occupying project-based units that shall expire due to the nonrenewal of project-based rental assistance contracts; provided further, that the department, as a condition of continued eligibility for vouchers and voucher payments, may require disclosure of social security numbers by participants and members of a participant's household in the Massachusetts rental voucher program for use in verification of income with other agencies, departments and executive offices; provided further, that if a participant or member of a participant's household fails to provide a social security number for use in verifying the household's income and eligibility, then that household shall no longer be eligible for a voucher or to receive benefits from the voucher program; provided further, that the monthly dollar amount of each voucher shall be the department-approved monthly rent of the unit less the monthly amount paid for rent

by the household; provided further, that any household that is proven to have caused intentional damage to its rental unit in an amount exceeding 2 months of rent during any 1-year period shall be terminated from the program; provided further, that if a mobile voucher's use is or has been discontinued, then the mobile voucher shall be reassigned; ~~provided further, that subsidies shall not be reduced due to the cost of inspections~~; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, each household holding a voucher shall pay at least 30 per cent, but not more than 40 per cent, of its income as rent; provided further, that the department shall establish the amounts of the mobile vouchers and the project-based vouchers so that the appropriation in this item is not exceeded by payments for rental assistance and administration; provided further, that the department shall not enter into commitments which shall cause it to exceed the appropriation set forth in this item; provided further, that the department may impose certain obligations for each participant in the Massachusetts rental voucher program through a 12-month contract which shall be executed by the participant and the department; provided further, that such obligations may include, but shall not be limited to, job training, counseling, household budgeting and education; as defined in regulations promulgated by the department and to the extent these programs are available; provided further, that each participant shall be required to undertake and meet these contractually established obligations as a condition for continued eligibility in the program; provided further, that for continued eligibility, each participant shall execute this 12-month contract ~~on or before~~ not later than September 1, ~~2015~~2016 if the participant's annual eligibility recertification date occurs between June 30, ~~2015~~2016 and September 1, ~~2015~~2016 and otherwise ~~on or before~~ not later than the annual eligibility recertification date; provided further, that any participant who is over the age of 60 years or who is disabled may be exempt from any obligations unsuitable under particular circumstances; provided further, that the department of housing and community development shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and joint committee on housing no later than December 15, 2016 on the utilization of rental vouchers in fiscal year 2016 under this item and item 7004-9030; provided further that the report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and average value of rental vouchers currently distributed in the commonwealth, in each county and in each municipality; provided further, that the report shall comply with state and federal privacy standards; ~~provided further, that the department may assist~~

~~authorities at their written request in the immediate implementation of a homeless prevention program utilizing alternative housing resources available to them for low-income families and the elderly by designating participants in the Massachusetts rental voucher program as at risk of displacement by public action through no fault of their own; provided further, that participating local housing authorities may take all steps necessary to enable them to transfer mobile voucher program participants from the Massachusetts rental voucher program into another housing subsidy program;~~ and provided further, that the total amount appropriated and re-appropriated under this item shall include unexpended funds up to ~~8,000,000~~\$14,652,294 appropriated for this item in fiscal year ~~2015~~2016 which shall not revert, but shall be made available for purposes of this item for fiscal year ~~2016~~2017

Alternative Housing Voucher Program (7004-9030)

SWM: \$ 6,200,000
FY2016: \$ 4,600,000
Difference: **\$ 1,600,000**

House: \$ 5,100,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 7,100,000

Description of Changes:

- Inserts the word “transitional” into the program description for this rental assistance program. This language was removed in the FY2016 budget;
- Removes a reporting requirement for AHVP. However, the MRVP line-item includes this reporting requirement for the program; and
- Removes language that would cap AHVP spending to \$5 million.

Language:

For the rental assistance program established ~~pursuant to~~in section 16 of chapter 179 of the acts of 1995; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the transitional rental assistance program shall be in the form of mobile vouchers; provided further, that the vouchers shall be in varying dollar amounts set by the department of housing and community development based on considerations including, but not limited to, household size, composition, household income and geographic location; provided further, that any household that is proven to have caused intentional damage to its rental unit in an amount exceeding 2

~~months'~~ months of rent during any 1-year period shall be terminated from the program; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be no maximum percentage applicable to the amount of income paid for rent by each household holding a mobile voucher; provided further, that each household shall be required to pay not less than 25 per cent of its net income as defined in regulations promulgated by the department for units if payment of utilities is not provided by the unit owner or not less than 30 per cent of its income for units if payment of utilities is provided by the unit owner; provided further, that payments for the rental assistance program may be provided in advance; provided further, that the department shall establish the amounts of the mobile vouchers so that the appropriation in this item is not exceeded by payments for rental assistance and administration; provided further, that the department shall not enter into commitments which shall cause it to exceed the appropriation set forth in this item; provided further, that the amount of a rental assistance voucher payment for an eligible household shall not exceed the rent less the household's minimum rent obligation; and provided further, that the word "rent", as used in this item, shall mean payments to the landlord or owner of a dwelling unit under a lease or other agreement for a tenant's occupancy of the dwelling unit; but shall not include payments made by the tenant separately for the cost of heat, cooking fuel or electricity; ~~provided further, that the department shall submit an annual report to the secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing expenditures, the number of outstanding rental vouchers and the number and types of units leased; and provided further, that consistent with said chapter 179 of the acts of 1995, the amount appropriated in this item shall not annualize to more than \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2016~~

Public Housing Authority Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)

SWM: \$ 64,500,000
FY2016: \$ 64,500,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 65,500,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 72,000,000

Description of Changes: SWM removes a \$500,000 earmark for implementing public housing reform. This language change was also included in the House budget.

Public Housing Reform (7004-9007)

SWM: \$ 800,000
FY2016: \$ 800,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 800,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,000,000

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (7004-9316)

SWM: \$ 12,500,000
FY2016: \$ 12,500,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 12,500,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 18,500,000

Description of Changes: Provides for forward funding of RAFT.

HomeBASE (7004-0108)

SWM: \$ 31,943,664
FY2016: \$ 33,749,331 (includes \$2.5 million supplemental budget)
Difference: \$ (1,805,667)

House: \$ 31,943,664
Building Blocks Request: \$ 39,200,000

Description of Changes: Removes language that requires DHCD to reallocate HomeBASE from under-performing service providers to above average providers in order to move as many families from motels and shelters and possible.

HomeBASE Eligibility Expansion Pilot Program (contained in 7004-0101):

The SWM budget includes a \$300,000 pilot program to allow families in domestic violence shelters or substance abuse programs to access HomeBASE if they would otherwise be eligible. This pilot program was included in both the Governor's budget and the House budget. However, SWM included the pilot program under the Emergency Assistance line-item (7004-0101). SWM made the following changes to the pilot program compared to the House and Governor's Budget:

Pilot Program Lanugage:

provided further, that as a one-year pilot program, the department may expend not more than \$300,000 under item 7004-0108 on families residing in time-limited temporary emergency shelters and residential treatment programs under items 4512-0200, 4513-1130, and 4800-0038 if such families otherwise meet all eligibility requirements applicable to emergency shelter under item 7004-0101, ~~except that, solely for the purpose of item 7004-0108, the fact that a family is residing in a temporary emergency domestic violence shelter under items 4513-1130 or 4800-0038 or in a residential treatment program under item 4512-0200 shall not preclude such family from receiving assistance; and provided further, that any unit in such temporary emergency shelters or residential treatment programs under items 4512-0200, 4513-1130, or 4800-0038 vacated through use of funds under this pilot program shall be filled by a family (i) eligible both for emergency shelter under item 7004-0101 and for entry into such temporary emergency shelter or residential treatment program under item 4512-0200, 4513-1130, or 4800-0038 and (ii) referred to such temporary emergency shelter or residential treatment program under item 4512-0200, 4513-1130, or 4800-0038 by the department~~

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling (7006-0011) – Retained Revenue

SWM: \$ 2,350,000
FY2016: \$ 2,350,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 2,350,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 3,650,000

Housing Court Expansion (NEW)

SWM: \$ 1,194,641
FY2016: \$ 0
Difference: \$ 1,194,641

House: \$ 0

Description of Changes: The SWM budget authorizes the expansion of Housing Court in Outside Sections 43–47 and funds the expansion with \$1.2 million in the new line-item 0336-0003.

Tenancy Preservation Program (7004-3045)

SWM: \$ 750,000
FY2016: \$ 500,000
Difference: \$ 250,000

House: \$ 500,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 975,000

Description of Changes: The SWM budget provides additional funds for TPP in order to accommodate the expansion of Housing Court.

Language:

For a tenancy preservation program for neutral party consultation services in eviction cases before the housing court department of the trial court for individuals with disabilities and for families with individuals with disabilities; provided, that the disability ~~is~~shall be directly related to the reason for eviction; and provided further, that funds shall be expended for this program in effort to accommodate the state wide expansion of the housing court department of the trial court

Housing Consumer Education Centers (7004-3036)

SWM: \$ 2,641,992 (no earmarks)
FY2016: \$ 2,891,992 (including \$250,000 earmark)
Difference: \$ 0 (no earmarks)

House: \$ 2,641,992 (no earmarks)
Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,640,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes earmarks from the line-item; and
- Removes reporting requirement for HCECs.

Brownfields Redevelopment Funds (NEW)

SWM: \$ 0
FY2016: \$ 0
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 0
Building Blocks Request: \$ 15,000,000

Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF)

SWM: \$ 0
FY2016: \$ 11,500,000
Difference: \$ (11,500,000)

House: \$ 0
Building Blocks Request: \$ 11,500,000

Community Preservation Act

SWM: \$ 0
FY2016: \$ 10,000,000
Difference: \$ (10,000,000)

House: \$ 10,000,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 25,000,000

Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)

SWM: \$ 1,800,000
FY2016: \$ 1,800,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 2,300,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 3,800,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes a \$200,000 earmark for supportive housing for LGBTQQ unaccompanied young adults; and
- Removes the reporting requirement for Home and Healthy for Good.

Mass. Access Affordable Housing Registry (4120-4001)

SWM: \$ 80,000
FY2016: \$ 80,000
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 80,000
Building Blocks Request: \$ 80,000

Tenancy Stabilization Coordinator (NEW)

SWM: \$ 0
FY2016: \$ 0
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 0
Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,500,000

Fuel Assistance (NEW)

SWM: \$ 0
FY2016: \$ 0
Difference: \$ 0

House: \$ 0
Building Blocks Request: \$ 10,000,000