

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATURE'S FY2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Title:** An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 to Authorize Certain COVID-19 Spending in Anticipation of Federal Reimbursement
- Number:** [H.4808](#)
- History:** 05/12/2020: Original version of bill filed by Gov. Baker ([H.4707](#))
05/13/2020: Referred to HWM
06/22/2020: HWM refers bill out in part as H.4802
06/25/2020: House passes the bill ([H.4808](#))
06/29/2020: Senate Ways & Means releases budget proposal ([S.2789](#))
07/02/2020: Senate passes the bill ([S.2799](#))
07/13/2020: House concurs with a further amendment ([H.4853](#)); Senate concurs with further amendments
07/16/2020: House & Senate enact bill and lay before the Governor
- Note:** [H.4853](#) contains the final language that the Legislature sent to the Governor.

This bill is a \$1.1 billion COVID-19 response supplemental budget for FY2020 passed by the Legislature on July 16, 2020, and laid before the Governor for his signature. The Governor has 10 days to sign the budget, veto, or send items back to the Legislature with amendments.

The budget creates two reserve funds at the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) to authorize certain COVID-19 related spending in anticipation of federal reimbursement. The reserve funds are:

- 1599-1231 – \$1 billion reserve fund available until June 30, 2020; and
- 1599-1232 – \$140 million reserve fund available until June 30, 2021.

The language for the reserve funds directs appropriations to specific programs, including critical affordable housing and homelessness prevention resources, as well as many important social safety net programs.

The budget authorizes many programs to continue unexpended FY2020 funds into FY2021, including rental assistance programs.

The following summary focuses on the affordable housing related items in the budget.

Directed Funds for Affordable & Public Housing, Emergency Shelter, & Homelessness Prevention

The budget contains funding for several programs related to affordable and public housing, emergency shelter, and homelessness prevention.

The 1599-1231 reserve fund directs no less than the following amounts:

- \$13.5 million for **local housing authorities** (7004-9005)
- \$2.5 million for **family and individual shelters** (7004-0101 & 7004-0102)
- \$85 million for **field hospitals and shelters**

The 1599-1232 reserve fund directs no less than the following amounts:

- \$9.25 million for **individual shelters** (7004-0101 & 7004-0102)
- \$20 million for **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)** (7004-9316) for COVID-19 RAFT Response (CRR). The CRR program:
 - Allows households to receive up to \$10,000 in assistance
 - Directs 33% of CRR funds to extremely low-income households
 - Directs 50% of funds to be prioritized to those families most likely to require family shelter services (7004-0101)
- \$1.5 million for **Housing Consumer Education Centers** (7004-3036)
- \$5.8 million for **Permanent Supportive Housing** (7004-0104)
- \$1 million for **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** (4000-0007)

Carry Over Funds for Rental Assistance and Emergency Shelter

The budget allows unexpended funds from FY2020 to carry over into FY2021 for:

- The **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)** (7004-9024)
- The **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)** (7004-9030)
- **Emergency Assistance** – Family Shelters (7004-0101)