



FY2019 House Amendments

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION,
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Please co-sponsor and support the following amendments to help everyone in the Commonwealth have a safe, healthy, and affordable home!

#	Line Item	Program	Sponsor	Description
285	7004-9024	Mass. Rental Voucher Program	Rep. Donato	Increases funding for MRVP to \$120 million
269	7004-9024	Mass. Rental Voucher Program	Rep. Connolly	Program improvements for MRVP & increases funding to \$120 million
1320	7004-9030	Alternative Housing Voucher Program	Rep. Decker	Increases funding for AHVP to \$7.7 million
395	7004-9005	Public Housing Operating	Rep. Nangle	Increases funding for Public Housing to \$67 million
1292	7004-9007	Public Housing Reform	Rep. Holmes	Increases funding for Public Housing Operating to \$1 million
1328	7004-9316	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition	Rep. Decker	Increases RAFT funding to \$18.5 million & restores eligibility for elders, the disabled, and homeless youth
824	7004-0108	HomeBASE	Rep. Vargas	Increases funding for HomeBASE to \$35 million and makes program improvements
920	0336-0003	Housing Court Expansion	Rep. Chris Walsh	Increases funding for Housing Court expansion to \$2.6 million
664	7004-3045	Tenancy Preservation Program	Rep. Rushing	Increases funding for TPP to \$1.3 million
1173	4000-0007	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	Rep. O'Day	Increases funding for youth housing and services to \$4 million
665	7004-0104	Home & Healthy for Good	Rep. Rushing	Increases funding for the program to \$2.4 million
175	NEW	New Lease	Rep. Honan	Funds New Lease with \$250,000
700	Outside Section	Economic Mobility Commission	Rep. Vega	Creates a commission to study economic mobility and stability programs
1339	Outside Section	Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Rep. Decker	Increases state EITC to 50% of federal value
466	Outside Section	Community Preservation Act (CPA)	Rep. Michlewitz	Increases deed recording fees that contribute to CPA funds

For more information, contact Eric Shupin, CHAPA's Director of Public Policy, eshupin@chapa.org or 617-742-0820 ext. 103.





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FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION, & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Please support the following budget amendments to help everyone in the Commonwealth have a safe, healthy, and affordable home!

#285 - Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024)

Sponsored by Rep. Paul Donato

Rep. Paul Donato's amendment restores funding for MRVP to \$120 million. This will help create 1,200 new rental vouchers, help preserve affordable housing, and restore the program to 1990 funding levels.

#269 - MRVP Improvements (7004-9024)

Sponsored by Rep. Mike Connolly

Rep. Mike Connolly's amendment increases funding to \$120 million and makes the following important improvements to increase the MRVP's effectiveness:

- Makes MRVP more usable by increasing voucher rent caps to current fair market rent standards; and
- Gets vouchers out faster by mandating a date for the DHCD to issue new vouchers.

#1320 - Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) (7004-9030)

Sponsored by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Rep. Decker's amendment increases funding for AHVP to \$7.7 million, to provide additional rental vouchers for low-income households with persons with disabilities.

#395 - Public Housing Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)

Sponsored by Rep. David Nangle

Rep. Nangle's amendment increases funding for public housing authorities to \$67 million to help support the more than 45,600 state public housing units in Massachusetts. Over three-quarters of public housing residents are elderly or persons with disabilities.

#1292 - Public Housing Reform (7004-9007)

Sponsored by Rep. Russell Holmes

Rep. Holmes's amendment provides \$1 million to help implement public housing reforms signed into law in 2014. These reforms improve governance and operation of local housing authorities by assisting with capital improvements, unit turn over, and help support a centralized waitlist. The reforms also increase tenant participation through trainings and technical assistance.

#1328 - Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (7004-9316)

Sponsored by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Rep. Decker's amendment increases RAFT funding to \$18.5 million and restores eligibility to allow the elderly, persons with disabilities, and unaccompanied homeless youth access to the program. RAFT has been a cost-effective, impactful homelessness prevention resource for households across the state.

#824 - HomeBASE (7004-0108)

Sponsored by Rep. Andres Vargas

Rep. Vargas's amendment addresses concerns about the number of families that return to homelessness and face housing instability after HomeBASE benefits end with the following program improvements:

- De-links RAFT and HomeBASE benefits so that households can access prevention services after their benefit runs out, without waiting the 12-month period;
- Allows families to renew their HomeBASE assistance at the end of the first 12-months, if otherwise facing a return to homelessness;
- Increases funding to \$35 million to cover the estimated costs of renewals; and
- Ensures that HomeBASE families who can no longer afford their apartment and who are evicted through no fault of their own to access further assistance; and
- Improves data and reporting requirements.

#920 - Housing Court Expansion (0336-0003)

Sponsored by Rep. Chris Walsh

Rep. Walsh's amendment provides full funding of \$2.6 million to help expand Housing Court statewide.

#664 - Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) (7004-3045)

Sponsored by Rep. Byron Rushing

Rep. Rushing's amendment increases TPP funding to \$1.3 million to help expand this homelessness prevention program that works in Housing Court to assist households with disabilities facing eviction. These additional funds will allow TPP to serve households as Housing Court is expanded statewide.

#1173 - Unaccompanied Homeless Youths (4000-0007)

Sponsored by Rep. Jim O'Day

Rep. O'Day's amendment increases funding to \$4 million for housing and services for unaccompanied homeless youth.

#665 - Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)

Sponsored by Rep. Rushing

Rep. Rushing's amendment increases funding to the Home and Healthy for Good program to \$2.4 million. This program provides housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals through a low-threshold, Housing First model that is less costly and more effective than managing their homelessness and health problems on the street or in shelter.

#175 - New Lease for Homeless Families (NEW)

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Honan

Rep. Honan's amendment provides \$250,000 for New Lease, a program that helps find homes for families living in shelters by implementing a preference for these families in affordable housing developments across the state.

#700 - Economic Mobility Commission (Outside Section)

Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Vega

Rep. Vega's amendment establishes a commission to study the numerous self-sufficiency programs operating in Massachusetts. Self-Sufficiency programs offer a pathway for financial mobility for families with low incomes, help them get education, increase their incomes, build assets, and attain financial self-sufficiency.

#1339 - Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (Outside Section)

Sponsored by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Representative Marjorie Decker's amendment increases the state EITC to 50% of the federal EITC value from the 30% proposed in the House Ways & Means budget. The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality.

#466 – Community Preservation Act (CPA) (Outside Section)

Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz's amendment adjusts recording fees at the state's Registries of Deeds to provide a higher distribution from the Community Preservation Trust Fund to communities that have enacted CPA. This will help sustain CPA for the benefit of all these communities as a resource that builds affordable housing and create jobs.

*For more information, contact Eric Shupin, CHAPA's Director of Public Policy,
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