

Analysis for FY2019 House Ways & Means Budget for Building Blocks Priorities

April 11, 2018

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BUILDING BLOCKS PRIORITIES

Included below are details on the Building Blocks Coalition budget priorities as contained in the House Ways and Means (HWM) FY19 budget proposal.

The HWM budget can be accessed here:

<https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2019/HouseWaysMeansBudget>

Line Item	Program	<i>FY19 Request</i>	HWM FY19 Budget	Gov's FY19 Budget	FY18 Budget
7004-9024	MRVP	<i>\$120,000,000</i>	\$100,000,000	\$97,469,569	\$92,734,677
7004-9030	AHVP	<i>\$7,700,000</i>	\$6,150,000	\$4,600,000	\$5,000,000
7004-9005	Public Housing Operating	<i>\$72,000,000</i>	\$65,500,000	\$64,500,000	\$64,500,000
7004-9007	Public Housing Reform	<i>\$1,000,000</i>	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000
7004-3036	HCECs	<i>\$2,840,000</i>	\$2,841,992	\$2,041,992	\$2,221,912
7004-9316	RAFT	<i>\$18,500,000</i>	\$17,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
7004-0108	HomeBASE	<i>\$35,000,000</i>	\$32,000,000	\$30,147,305	\$30,147,305
7006-0011	Foreclosure Prevention	<i>\$2,350,000</i>	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000	\$2,350,000
0336-0003	Housing Court Expansion	<i>\$2,600,000</i>	\$1,500,000	\$2,600,813	\$1,000,000
7004-3045	TPP	<i>\$1,300,000</i>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
7004-0104	Home & Helathy for Good	<i>\$2,240,000</i>	\$2,240,000	\$2,040,000	\$2,000,000
4120-4001	MassAccess Registry	<i>\$80,000</i>	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
4000-0007	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	<i>\$4,000,000</i>	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$675,000
NEW	New Lease	<i>\$250,000</i>	\$0	\$0	
NEW	Fuel Assistance	<i>\$25,000,000</i>	\$0	\$0	

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (7004-9024)

HWM:	\$ 100,000,000
FY2018:	\$ 92,734,677
Difference:	\$ 7,265,323

Building Blocks Request: \$ 120,000,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes language allowing LHAs to transfer voucher holders into another housing subsidy program.

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 the Massachusetts rental voucher program; provided further, that the income of eligible households shall not exceed 80 per cent of the area median income; provided further, that the department may require that not less than 75 per cent of all new vouchers administered by each administering agency under contract to the department be targeted to households whose income at initial occupancy does not exceed 30 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 the use of a mobile voucher 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 and project-based vouchers so that the appropriation in this item shall not be 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 shall 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 such 12-month contract not later than September 1, ~~2017~~2018 if the participant's annual eligibility recertification date occurs between June 30, ~~2017~~2018 and September 1, ~~2017~~2018 and otherwise 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 may assist housing 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; provided further, that~~ the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and joint committee on housing not later than December ~~15, 2017~~14, 2018 on the utilization of rental vouchers during the last 3 fiscal years 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; and provided further, that the department may expend funds from this item for costs related to the completion of the voucher management system

Alternative Housing Voucher Program (7004-9030)

HWM: \$ 6,150,000
FY2018: \$ 5,000,000
Difference: **\$ 1,150,000**

Building Blocks Request: \$ 7,700,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Public Housing Authority Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)

HWM: \$ 65,500,000
FY2018: \$ 64,500,000
Difference: **\$ 1,000,000**

Building Blocks Request: \$72,000,000

Description of Changes:

- Adds language saying that this line item will not support income for state employees.

Public Housing Reform (7004-9007)

HWM: \$ 950,000
FY2018: \$ 950,000
Difference: \$ 0

Building Blocks Request: \$1,000,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Housing Consumer Education Centers (7004-3036)

HWM: \$ 2,841,992
FY2018: \$ 2,201,572
Difference: **\$ 640,420**

Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,840,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes earmarks from the line-item.

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (7004-9316)

HWM:	\$ 17,000,000
FY2018:	\$ 15,000,000
Difference:	\$ 2,000,000

Building Blocks Request: \$ 18,500,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes the \$2 million set aside for expanded eligibility to serve elders, persons with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth.

HomeBASE (7004-0108)

HWM:	\$ 32,000,000
FY2018:	\$ 30,147,305
Difference:	\$ 1,852,695

Building Blocks Request: \$ 35,000,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes language that requires funds to be used to more rapidly transition families to temporary or permanent sustainable housing.

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 under this item; 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; 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 said item 7004-0101 and this item for 12 months from the last date the family received assistance under said 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 pending a timely appeal under chapter 23B of 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 persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing under the 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 under this item 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.; the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc.; the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development; the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.; the Housing Solutions for Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc.; 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 sustainable housing; provided further, that the department shall use funds provided for this program for stabilization workers to focus efforts on housing retention and to link households to supports, including job training, education, job search and child care opportunities available and may enter into agreements with other public and private agencies for the provision of such services; provided further, that a stabilization worker shall be assigned to each such household; provided further, that ~~funds shall be used to more rapidly transition families served by the program into temporary or permanent sustainable housing; provided further, that~~ notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 90 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, ~~2017~~2018, 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 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 assistance within the prior 12 months and any obstacles encountered with the administration of this program; 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 household assistance funds shall be advanced to the administering agencies at the end of each month and before 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; provided further, the department may expend not more than \$300,000 under item 7004-0108 on families residing in temporary emergency shelters and family residential treatment or sober living programs under items 4512-0200 and 4513-1130, if such families otherwise meet all eligibility requirements applicable to emergency shelter under item 7004-0101, except that, solely for the purpose of this item, the fact that a family is residing in a temporary emergency domestic violence shelter under item 4513-1130 or in a family residential treatment or sober living program under item 4512-0200 shall not preclude such family from receiving assistance; and provided further, guidance shall be developed by the department in consultation with the department of public health to provide that any unit in such temporary emergency shelter or family residential treatment or sober living program vacated through use of funds under this program has an opportunity to be filled by a family ~~(i)~~(a) eligible both for emergency shelter under item 7004-0101 and for such domestic violence or family residential treatment or sober living program and ~~(ii)~~(b) referred to such temporary emergency shelter or family residential treatment or sober living program by the department

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling (7006-0011) – Retained Revenue

HWM: \$ 1,550,000
FY2018: \$ 2,350,000
Difference: **\$ 800,000**

Building Blocks Request: \$ 3,650,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes language that directs \$800,000 to HCECs.

Housing Court Expansion

HWM: \$ 1,500,000
FY2018: \$ 1,000,000
Difference: **\$ 500,000**

Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,600,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) (7004-3045)

HWM: \$ 500,000
FY2018: \$ 500,000
Difference: \$ 0

Building Blocks Request: \$ 1,300,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)

HWM: \$ 2,240,000
FY2018: \$ 2,040,000
Difference: **\$ 200,000**

Building Blocks Request: \$ 2,240,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Mass. Access Affordable Housing Registry (4120-4001)

HWM:	\$ 80,000
FY2018:	\$ 80,000
Difference:	\$ 0

Building Blocks Request: \$ 80,000

Description of Changes:

- None.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

HWM:	\$ 1,000,000
FY2018:	\$ 625,000
Difference:	\$ 325,000

Building Blocks Request: \$ 4,000,000

Description of Changes:

- Removes earmark for Y2Y homeless shelter.