

CHAPA's FY2019 Budget Priorities

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION, & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



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

FY19 REQUEST: \$120 MILLION

MRVP is the most effective tool to immediately help people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness find homes they can afford by providing a combination of project-based and mobile rental vouchers. \$120 million will increase the number of new vouchers available, help preserve affordable housing developments, and make programmatic fixes that will make vouchers more usable and reduce lengthy lease-up times.

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

FY19 REQUEST: \$7.7 MILLION

AHVP provides rental assistance to over 500 very low-income households with persons with disabilities. This program furthers the Commonwealth's goal of providing persons with disabilities choices to live in community-based housing and avoid more costly institutions or homelessness. \$7.7 million will provide rental assistance to approximately 800 people, the number of vouchers originally supported by the program in 1995.

Public Housing Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)

FY19 REQUEST: \$72 MILLION

This program supports more than 45,600 state public housing units in Massachusetts. Over three-quarters of public housing residents are elderly or persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, years of underfunding have left many housing authorities struggling to operate and keep apartments in good repair. The additional funds will help housing authorities operate and preserve this valuable resource.

Public Housing Reform (7004-9007)

FY19 REQUEST: \$1 MILLION

This line-item funds the implementation of public housing reform, signed into law in August 2014. These reforms improve governance and operation of local housing authorities by assisting with capital improvements, unit turn over, and creating a centralized waitlist. The reforms also increase tenant participation and promote economies of scale by encouraging collaborations among housing authorities.

Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) (7004-3036)

FY19 REQUEST: \$2.84 MILLION

This program supports regional housing organizations that offer anyone in the Commonwealth a wide range of resources, including housing search assistance, eviction prevention, and homebuyer and foreclosure counseling. HCECs are also essential to delivering other housing resources, such as RAFT and HomeBASE. \$2.84 million will provide HCECs with level-funding and will allow HCECs to avoid losing staff and continue to promote access to safe and sustainable housing.

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

FY19 REQUEST: \$18.5 MILLION

RAFT helps families who are at risk of homelessness remain housed by providing assistance of up to \$4,000 in a 12-month period to help with security deposits, first and last month's rent, utility and rent arrears. \$18.5 million will allow RAFT to continue serving families with children as well as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and homeless and unaccompanied youth, throughout the entire year.

Program	FY19 Request
MRVP	\$120,000,000
AHVP	\$7,700,000
Public Housing Operating	\$72,000,000
Public Housing Reform	\$1,000,000
Housing Consumer Edu. Centers	\$2,841,992
RAFT	\$18,500,000
HomeBASE	\$35,000,000
Foreclosure Prevention	\$3,650,000
Housing Court Expansion	\$2,600,813
Tenancy Preservation Program	\$1,300,000
Home & Healthy for Good	\$2,240,000
MassAccess Registry	\$80,000
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	\$4,000,000
New Lease	\$250,000
Fuel Assistance	\$25,000,000

For more
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HomeBASE (7004-0108)

FY19 REQUEST: \$35 MILLION

HomeBASE offers families an alternative to emergency shelter by providing stabilization services and up to \$8,000 in financial assistance to pay rent, utilities, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow them to stay in their homes, move, or live with another family. These funds will help further reduce the number of families staying in hotels and motels. In addition to the funds, we also request that families be allowed to renew HomeBASE until their income reaches 50% of the Area Median Income. This will help achieve the program's goal of ensuring housing stability and preventing a fall back into homelessness.

Foreclosure Prevention & Housing Counseling (7006-0011)

FY19 REQUEST: \$3.65 MILLION

This line item, funded through retained revenue from mortgage loan originator license fees, supports foreclosure prevention and housing counseling across the Commonwealth. By allowing the Division of Banks to retain more revenue, it can support additional effective foreclosure prevention tools, such as direct advocacy and counseling. We also ask that this line-item be dedicated only to foreclosure and housing counseling to avoid funding HCECs (7004-3036) through this program, as was done in the FY18 budget.

Housing Court Expansion (0336-0003)

FY19 REQUEST: \$2.6 MILLION

In FY2018, the budget authorized the statewide expansion of Housing Court. This provided everyone in the Commonwealth access to the court, which hears cases involving eviction, code enforcement, and discrimination claims. Providing additional funding for Housing Court as it expands will allow increased access to justice and allow the court to hire additional staff. It will also allow the Tenancy Preservation Program to be offered statewide.

Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) (7004-3045)

FY19 REQUEST: \$1.3 MILLION

TPP is a homelessness prevention program that works with households with disabilities facing eviction because of behavior related to that disability. In consultation with the Housing Court, TPP works with landlords and tenants to determine if the disability can be reasonably accommodated and the tenancy preserved. In FY17, TPP stabilized 93% of households served by preventing an eviction. Additional funds will allow TPP to serve more persons with disabilities as Housing Court is expanded statewide.

Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)

FY19 REQUEST: \$2.24 MILLION

Home and Healthy for Good (HHG) provides housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals through a housing first model that is less costly and more effective than managing residents' homelessness and health problems on the street or in shelter. HHG also supports a pilot program to provide shelter and support services for LGBTQ unaccompanied homeless youths. HHG saves the Commonwealth an estimated annual average of \$11,801 per person because of a decreased reliance on other expensive public services once an individual is in permanent supportive housing.

Massachusetts Accessible Housing Registry (MassAccess) (4120-4001)

FY19 REQUEST: \$80,000

MassAccess (www.massaccesshousingregistry.org) works with property managers to market vacant, accessible apartments to help people with disabilities find accessible and affordable housing.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youths (4000-0007)

FY19 REQUEST: \$4 MILLION

This program helps meet the housing and support service needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults, ages 24 and younger, who are experiencing homelessness. Additional funds will provide much-needed resources to further build up a systematic, effective response to unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness across Massachusetts.

New Lease for Homeless Families (NEW)

FY19 REQUEST: \$ 250,000

New Lease helps find homes for families living in homeless shelters by implementing a preference for these families in affordable housing developments across the state. Through New Lease, homeless families have the opportunity to live in desirable and affordable communities with the supports they need to achieve successful tenancies. A new line-item will help New Lease continue to serve the nearly 300 families the program works with to help find and maintain homes.

Fuel Assistance (NEW)

FY19 REQUEST: \$25 MILLION

Prolonged bitterly cold weather and rising heating oil prices have combined to make staying warm this winter a nightmare for tens of thousands of vulnerable households. Particularly at risk are children and seniors across the Commonwealth. \$25 million in funding will help low-income households heat their homes so that we can avert a public health and safety crisis.

