



FY2021 House Amendments

FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
SUPPORTED BY CITIZENS' HOUSING & PLANNING ASSOCIATION

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

#	Program	Sponsor	Description
595	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)	Rep. Honan	Helps households access RAFT more quickly by simplifying and streamlining the application process
479	Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs)	Rep. Honan	Increases funding for HCECs to \$4.25 million to increase capacity to administer programs like RAFT
350	HomeBASE	Rep. Ferrante	<p>Program improvements to better serve families at risk of homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow earlier access to HomeBASE for families at imminent risk of homelessness • Allow renewal of HomeBASE if the loss of resource would lead to an eviction
40	Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Rep. Decker	Increases that State EITC to 50% of federal credit
41	EITC Access	Rep. Decker	Allows access to EITC on the basis of Social Security and Tax Identification numbers

For more information, contact Eric Shupin, CHAPA's Director of Public Policy, eshupin@chapa.org or 617-682-9712





FY2020 House Amendments

FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE & EVICTION PREVENTION TO ADDRESS COVID-19 IMPACTS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Honan

Rep. Honan's amendment simplifies the RAFT program and helps expedite the application and assistance process. Specifically, the amendment:

- Explicitly creates a temporary Eviction Diversion Initiative fund (EDI fund) in RAFT and authorizes \$30 million to be used for that program to serve those households applying for RAFT because of COVID;
- Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to use a short, simple application with minimal processing time for the EDI fund;
- Removes the sustainability requirement in order to qualify for the \$10,000 maximum benefit to allow RAFT to be used more effectively during the ongoing pandemic when households continue to face economic insecurity;
- Allows the self-certification of income, under pains and penalties of perjury, to streamline the application process and make it less burdensome on applicants;
- Allows the RAFT benefit to be used more flexibly to achieve stability for as many residents and property owners as possible;
- Allows any funds appropriated for RAFT to continue forward to ensure they are used by the program; and
- Clarifies that the benefit for the upstream arrearage program shall be the lesser of up to four times the monthly rent or mortgage payment or the actual amount of money owed.

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

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Honan

Rep. Honan's amendment increases funding for HCECs to \$4.25 million to allow regional housing agencies to increase capacity and hire additional staff to serve more people struggling to make rent and mortgage payments through RAFT and other housing assistance programs.

#350 - HomeBASE (7004-0108)

Sponsored by Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante

Rep. Ferrante's amendment extends HomeBASE benefits to families timing out of the program who would otherwise face a return to homelessness and improves data collection on the program. The amendment makes important program improvements to better support families facing homelessness by allowing:

- Earlier access to HomeBASE for families at imminent risk of homelessness; and
- Families to automatically renew their HomeBASE assistance beyond 12 months if otherwise facing a return to homelessness

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

Sponsored by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Rep. Decker's amendment increases the state EITC to 50% of the federal EITC value. The state EITC is an effective tax credit for low-income households that increases economic mobility, reduces inequality, rewards work, and improves health.

#41 – EITC Access (Outside Section)

Sponsored by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Rep. Decker's amendments increases allows families with low income to access the state EITC based on Social Security number and Tax Identification number.

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