



# FY2021 Senate Amendments

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & 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
394	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)	<b>Sen. Crighton</b>	Helps households access RAFT more quickly by simplifying and streamlining the application process
405	HomeBASE	<b>Sen. Chang-Diaz</b>	Program improvements to better serve families at risk of homelessness by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allowing renewal of HomeBASE if loss of resource would otherwise lead a family to become homeless</li><li>• De-couples HomeBASE &amp; RAFT</li></ul>
374	Public Housing	<b>Sen. Crighton</b>	Increases funding for Public Housing to \$80 million
376	Foreclosure Prevention & Housing Counseling	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Increases funding for Foreclosure Prevention & Homeownership Counseling to \$2.85 million
398	Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) Improvements	<b>Sen. Crighton</b>	Improves MRVP by increasing the number of rental vouchers issued to the full amount that the appropriation will allow
393	MRVP Rent Cap	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Lowers MRVP tenants' rent payment from at least 40% to 30% of their income

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





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

Sponsored by Sen. Brendan Crighton

Sen. Crighton's amendment simplifies the RAFT program to expedite the application and distribution process by allowing:

- Income verification to be achieved through a menu of options to streamline the application process and make it less burdensome on applicants; and
- The RAFT benefit to be used more flexibly to achieve stability for as many residents and property owners as possible.

## **#405 - HomeBASE (7004-0108)**

Sponsored by Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz

Sen. Chang-Diaz'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:

- Families to automatically renew HomeBASE if they otherwise face a return to homelessness; and
- De-couples HomeBASE and RAFT benefits so families can access all resources available to them to help avoid homelessness.

## **#374 – Public Housing Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)**

Sponsored by Sen. Brendan Crighton

Sen. Crighton's amendment increases funding for Public Housing Operating Subsidy to \$80 million. Public Housing authorities will benefit from the increased funding as they face higher operating expenses during the pandemic to keep residents safe.

## **#376 – Foreclosure Prevention and Housing Counseling (7006-0011)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment increases funding for Foreclosure Prevention and Homeownership Counseling to \$2.85 million to ensure housing counseling resources are maintained during the time of increased demand due to COVID-19.

## **#398 – Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024)**

Sponsored by Sen. Brendan Crighton

Sen. Crighton's amendment improves MRVP by increasing the number of housing vouchers issued by directing DHCD use as much of the appropriation for the program as possible. This will mean more rental assistance will be made available for families during the pandemic.

## **#393 – Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment lowers MRVP payment standard so the tenant payment, which is currently at least 40% of a household's income, drops to to 30% of the household's monthly adjusted net income. This will help align MRVP more with federal Housing Choice Voucher program and help households struggling to make ends meet.

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