



# CHAPA'S FY2021 BUDGET PRIORITIES

## FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

LINE ITEM	PROGRAM	FY21 REQUEST	GOV FY21 BUDGET	FY20 BUDGET	FY19 BUDGET
7004-9024	Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)	\$135,000,000	\$112,167,549*	\$116,000,000	\$100,000,000
7004-9030	Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)	\$12,000,000	\$5,105,601 †	\$8,000,000	\$6,150,000
7004-9005	Public Housing Operating Subsidy	\$78,000,000	\$72,000,000	\$72,000,000	\$65,500,000
7004-9007	Public Housing Reform	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
7004-3036	Housing Consumer Education Centers	\$4,000,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,000,000
7004-9316	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)	\$27,000,000	\$13,642,337**	\$21,000,000	\$20,000,000
7004-0108	HomeBASE	\$27,200,000	\$27,158,178	\$25,825,000	\$32,000,000
7006-0011	Foreclosure Prevention & Housing Counseling	\$2,850,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,850,000	\$1,550,000
7004-3045	Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP)	\$1,500,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
7004-0104	Home & Healthy for Good	\$3,890,000	\$2,890,000	\$2,890,000	\$2,390,000
4120-4001	Mass. Accessible Housing Registry (MassAccess)	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
4000-0007	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	\$8,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,300,000
7004-0106	New Lease for Homeless Families	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

\*The Governor plans to make \$120 million in total funding available for MRVP, with additional funds coming from unexpended MRVP funds from FY2020.

† The Governor plans to make \$7.4 million in total funding available for AHVP, with additional funds coming from unexpended AHVP funds from FY2020.

\*\* DHCD plans to make \$20.9 million in total funding available for RAFT, with \$7.35 million in funding coming from the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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*Flip for more in-depth information on each budget item*

## **MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM (MRVP) 7004-9024**

FY21 REQUEST: \$135 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 tenant- and project-based rental vouchers. \$135 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**

FY21 REQUEST: \$12 MILLION

AHVP provides rental assistance to over 500 very low-income households with persons with disabilities. This program provides persons with disabilities choices to live in community-based housing and avoid more costly institutions or homelessness. \$12 million will help restore the program to support up to 400 additional vouchers.

## **PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING SUBSIDY 7004-9005**

FY21 REQUEST: \$78 MILLION

This program supports more than 45,000 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**

FY21 REQUEST: \$2 MILLION

This program funds the implementation of public housing reform, passed in 2014. These reforms improve governance and operation of local housing authorities by assisting with capital improvements, management, and creating a centralized waitlist. The reforms also increase tenant participation and resident organizing at their housing authorities.

## **HOUSING CONSUMER EDUCATION CENTERS (HCECs) 7004-3036**

FY21 REQUEST: \$4 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 and homelessness prevention resources, including rental vouchers, RAFT and HomeBASE. \$4 million will allow HCECs to serve even more households facing housing instability or homelessness.

## **RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION (RAFT) 7004-9316**

FY21 REQUEST: \$27 MILLION

RAFT is a homelessness prevention program for households with very low incomes experiencing a housing crisis. Eligible households receive up to \$4,000 to help retain their housing, obtain new housing, or otherwise avoid becoming homeless. An additional \$6 million for RAFT will help support a rent arrearage pilot program to provide a resource to help households who have fallen behind on rent before they face an eviction.

## **HOMEBASE 7004-0108**

FY21 REQUEST: \$27.2 MILLION

HomeBASE offers families an alternative to emergency shelter by providing stabilization services and up to \$10,000 to pay rent, utilities, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow them to stay in their homes or move out of emergency shelter. In addition to the funding, we also request that families be allowed to renew HomeBASE if they remain very low-income and continue to face housing instability. This will help prevent these families from becoming homeless again.

## **FORECLOSURE PREVENTION & HOUSING COUNSELING** 7006-0011

FY21 REQUEST: \$2.85 MILLION

This line item, funded through retained revenue from licensing fees for mortgage loan originators, supports foreclosure prevention and housing counseling across the Commonwealth. By allowing the Division of Banks to retain more revenue, it can support more foreclosure and housing counseling.

## **TENANCY PRESERVATION PROGRAM (TPP)** 7004-3045

FY21 REQUEST: \$1.5 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. The program prevents homelessness for over 90% of households served.

## **HOME & HEALTHY FOR GOOD (HHG)** 7004-0104

FY21 REQUEST: \$3.89 MILLION

HHG provides housing and support 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. Annually, the program saves the state an estimated \$11,700 per housed tenant 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

FY21 REQUEST: \$80,000

MassAccess ([www.massaccesshousingregistry.org](http://www.massaccesshousingregistry.org)) helps people find affordable rental and homeownership opportunities in Massachusetts through its online listings. A key feature of the registry is to highlight homes for people with disabilities who need accessible or barrier-free housing.

## **UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH** 4000-0007

FY21 REQUEST: \$8 MILLION

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

## **NEW LEASE FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES** 7004-0106

FY21 REQUEST: \$250,000

New Lease helps find homes for families living in shelters by implementing a preference for these families in affordable housing developments across the state. Through New Lease, homeless families can live in desirable and affordable communities with the supports they need to achieve successful tenancies. The funding will help New Lease to continue serving the nearly 300 families they work with to help find and maintain homes.

