Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program

FY2020 Funding Request: $130 Million

MRVP provides housing stability and security to more than 8,300 low income households, including elders, disabled individuals, and families with children.

Support funding of $130M for MRVP (line item 7004-9024) in FY2020.

Recent Successes with MRVP:
- A reduction in the state’s reliance on motels to house families experiencing homelessness;
- An increase of over 1,000 new units to the Commonwealth’s supportive housing portfolio; and
- The preservation of affordability in units that would have otherwise been lost due to the loss of federal supports.

Why Now?
- The number of households experiencing housing instability and homelessness persists as Massachusetts remains one of the most expensive states in the nation in which to live.
- More than 60% of the Commonwealth’s renter households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost burdened, needing to spend more than half of their income on housing costs; the same is true for 32% of MA renter households earning 31%-50% AMI.*
- HUD’s 2015 Family Options Study demonstrated that families experiencing homelessness who secured a housing voucher experienced significantly better outcomes than other interventions. Families able to access vouchers were less likely to reenter homelessness; more often remained intact; had fewer school interruptions for their children; and decreased their levels of toxic stress, including domestic violence.
- Vulnerable residents of Massachusetts need reinvigorated state government supports for their stability amidst ongoing uncertainties within our federal policy environments.

What will $130M for MRVP in FY2020 accomplish?
- Annualize the cost of new supportive housing units and current vouchers, a projected cost of $116M.
- Improve MRVP’s effectiveness and reduce the amount of time it takes for voucher holders to obtain housing by setting allowable rents at HUD’s area-wide, annually updated Fair Market Rent (currently $1,740 for a 2-bedroom in the Boston area), thereby setting a baseline for vouchers that will work more effectively in the current market.
- Provide approximately 500 new mobile and project based vouchers beyond the current maximum utilization of the program.

* Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2015 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) housing file.
Housing Solutions Campaign Co-Sponsors

Action for Boston Community Development
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness
AIDS Housing Corporation
Asian Community Development Corporation
Berkshire Housing Development Corporation
Boston Center for Independent Living
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
Boston Tenant Coalition
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of Greater Boston
Centerboard
Central Mass. Housing Alliance
Children’s HealthWatch (BMC)
Children’s Services of Roxbury
Citizens Inn
Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association
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Crossroads Family Center
Developmental Disabilities Management Assistance, Inc.
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FamilyAid Boston
Family Independence Initiative
Family-to-Family Project
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Father Bill’s & Mainspring
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Mass. Association of Community Development Corp.
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Mass. Housing and Shelter Alliance
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Metro Housing | Boston
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New Lease
North Shore Community Development Corporation
Pine Street Inn
Project Hope
RCAP Solutions
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
Rosie’s Place
Rural Development, Inc.
ServiceNet
Shelburne Housing Authority
Sojourner’s House
Somerville Homeless Coalition
South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation
Southcoast Regional Network to End Homelessness
South Middlesex Opportunity Council
St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children
Victory Programs
Way Finders
Wellspring House
Western Mass. Network to End Homelessness
Women’s Institute for Housing & Economic Development
The Women’s Lunch Place

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