



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

May 27, 2016

## Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2017: The Senate Has Completed Its FY'17 Budget Debate

**Thank You for Supporting Key Amendments for Housing, Homelessness, and  
Safety Net Programs!**

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### Greetings!

Last night, the State Senate finished its three day debate on the 1,167 amendments to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means ("SWM" or "Senate Ways and Means") fiscal year 2017 budget recommendations for the Commonwealth. Please see below for more details on the outcomes for key amendments related to housing, shelter, homelessness prevention, and cash assistance programs.

***Thank you for advocating with us to protect and promote investment in these key programs and in people experiencing housing instability!***

**As a follow-up, please call, email, or visit your State Senator to thank them for their work on the budget and for any support they gave to the key amendments in conversations, caucuses, and debates this week. If your Senator is listed as a lead sponsor or co-sponsor, please also take a minute to thank them for being a strong voice on these issues.**

**You can find your State Senator's contact information by going to [www.malegislature.gov/People/Senate](http://www.malegislature.gov/People/Senate) or [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com), or by calling the State House switchboard: 617-722-2000.**

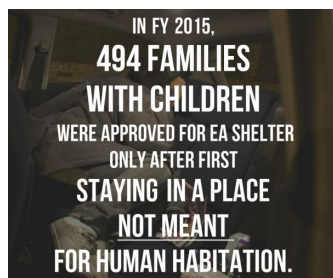
What's next? In the weeks ahead, the House and Senate each will name three members to a FY'17 budget conference committee. This committee will be charged with working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget.

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Please stay tuned in the days and week ahead for more email updates. You also can keep up with the next steps of the budget debate by following the Coalition on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). For more details on the Senate budget, see below and this [Senate page](#) with amendment and floor action details.

As we get closer and closer to the final FY'17 budget, your voice remains critical to helping to protect housing, homelessness, and safety net programs with and for families, individuals, and youth.

Best wishes to you this Memorial Day weekend!

-Kelly

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## Quick List of Outcomes and Lead Sponsors for Key Housing, Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, and Cash Assistance Amendments

*Please click through to see the full list of co-sponsors.*

- [RAFT expansion and funding increase, Amendment #706](#) - Senator Eldridge
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of the amendment was adopted, adding \$500,000 to the Senate budget to expand access to RAFT to individuals. The amendment passed with a unanimous roll call vote!** Based on FY'15 average spending per household, this would allow DHCD and partner agencies to serve 173 individuals across the state.
- [Housing and services for unaccompanied youth, Amendment #355](#) - Senator Lewis
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected, leaving the Senate's youth homelessness funding recommendation at \$2 million, matching the FY'16 appropriation.**
- [Emergency Assistance program tracking and reporting, Amendment #784](#) and [Amendment #669](#) - Senators Barrett and Lewis
  - **Amendment Outcome: Senator Lewis' version of the amendment (#669) was adopted.** This amendment would expand tracking and reporting to better understand the

number of families that are denied and the reasons for denials; the number of families exiting shelter for subsidized housing; the number of families not completing applications and the reasons why; the demographics of families in the EA and HomeBASE programs; the number of families assessed for health and safety risks as part of their EA application, etc.

- [Emergency Assistance program ADA and language access, Amendment #822](#) - Senator L'Italien
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**
  
- [Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program funding and language, Amendment #779](#) - Senator Forry
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of this amendment was adopted. It would require DHCD to begin issuing new vouchers on or before August 1st.**
  
- [HomeBASE expansion and renewal, Amendment #426](#) - Senator Chang-Diaz
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**
  
- [Home and Healthy for Good funding, Amendment #800](#) - Senator Forry
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**
  
- [Home and Healthy for Good LGBT young adult earmark, #759](#) - Senator Eldridge
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was adopted, adding in language and \$200,000 for housing and services for LGBTQ young adults.**
  
- [Shelter for individuals funding, Amendment #802](#) - Senator Forry
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of the amendment was adopted, adding \$750,000 to the line item.**
  
- [Alternative Housing Voucher Program statute, Amendment #789](#) - Senator Eldridge
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was adopted, which would change the underlying statute to clarify that**

AHVP is not a transitional program and to allow for project-based AHVP subsidies.

- [Alternative Housing Voucher Program funding, Amendment #734](#) - Senator Eldridge
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**
  
- [Public housing operating subsidies, Amendment #783](#) - Senator Forry
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**
  
- [Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children job search, Amendment #437](#) - Senator Donnelly
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of the amendment was adopted, so as to allow families have 60 days to complete and provide evidence of job search to meet the TAFDC program requirements.**
  
- [Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children disability standard, Amendment #561](#) - Senator L'Italien
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of the amendment was adopted.**
  
- [Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children caretaker exemption, Amendment #608](#) - Senator Barrett
  - **Amendment Outcome: A redrafted version of the amendment was adopted.**
  
- [McKinney-Vento education transportation funding increase for children experiencing homelessness, Amendment #190](#) - Senator Lovely
  - **Amendment Outcome: This amendment was rejected.**

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Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless