



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Youth Without Homes Can't Wait: Please Override the Governor's Elimination of the Youth Homelessness Line Item (4000-0007) to Restore \$675,000 for Housing and Services for Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults and Provide Additional Supplemental Funds as Soon as Possible



Requests:

Please do all you can to complete the override of Governor Baker's elimination of the unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness line item, 4000-0007. The House overrode the veto on September 13th with a 140-12 vote. If the Senate also votes in support of the override, there will be \$675,000 in the FY'18 budget to address the housing and support service needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness out on their own. While this amount is far below the FY'17 spending level of \$2 million, any and all funds are needed to address the urgent needs of young people without homes. We hope that the Legislature will continue to work throughout FY'18 to bring the appropriation up to \$2 million.

Why Now?

There is a desperate need for increased housing, shelter, and service options for youth and young adults age 24 or younger who are living outside the custody and care of their parents or guardians. We know all too well that youth homelessness takes its toll on both the youth and our society at large. People who experience homelessness as adolescents often face bleak outcomes. While many youth are resilient and are able to overcome the ravages of homelessness, homelessness often leads to poor health outcomes including increased risk of death, exposure to violence, susceptibility to exploitation and high risk behaviors, and poor academic performance with increased risk of dropping out of school.

In May, under the leadership of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and in partnership with youth and youth providers, the state conducted its fourth annual statewide youth homelessness survey through the Continua of Care networks. In last year's Youth Count, 1,965 of the young people who participated in the survey were under the age of 25, and of those young people, 48.3% (949 youth and young adults) indicated that they had experienced homelessness in the past or present, and 25.5% (502 youth and young adults) indicated that they currently were experiencing homelessness. The results are helping to shed more light on the extent of youth homelessness and the needs of young people here in the Commonwealth. See the reverse side for some data from the 2016 survey; the full 2016 report is available at <http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/unaccompanied-youth-homelessness>. Learn more about the 2017 Youth Count at <https://tinyurl.com/mayouthcount>.

We know that the time to act is now. **The \$675,000 initially approved by the Legislature for FY'18— and any midyear supplemental funds that can allocated— would provide much-needed resources to further build up a systematic, effective response to unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness across Massachusetts. Additional mid-year funding of \$1,325,000 would bring the programs back to scale.**

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley, Associate Director, at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

73 Buffum Street, Lynn, MA 01902

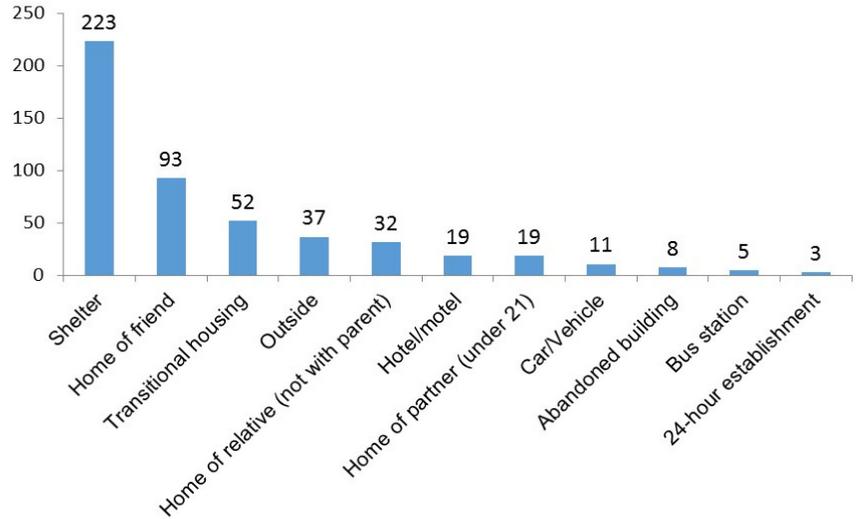
Phone: 781-595-7570 Fax: 781-595-7574

www.mahomeless.org

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSERS

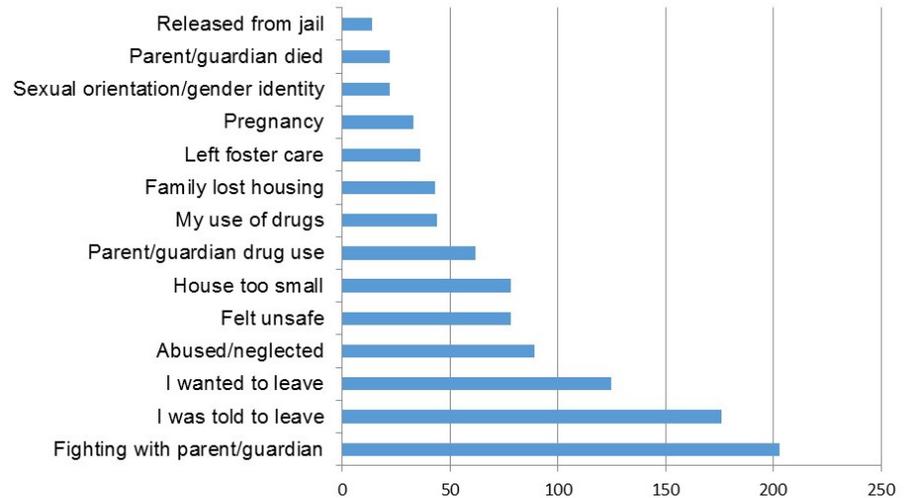
Action for Boston Community Development
AIDS Action Committee / Youth on Fire
Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Cambridge and Somerville Housing and Welfare Coalition
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
Children's League of Massachusetts
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
Community Teamwork
DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services
Domus Incorporated
Father Bill's & Mainspring
Homeless Prevention Council of Lower Cape Cod
Homeless Youth Providers Engaging Together
Homes for Families
Horizons for Homeless Children
Justice Resource Institute/YouthHarbors
LUK, Inc.
Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
MassEquality
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
Poor People's United Fund
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
Samaritans Steps
School on Wheels
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
Y2Y Harvard Square

Where the Youth and Young Adults Currently Experiencing Homelessness Slept the Night Before Taking the Youth Count Survey (n = 502)



Main Reasons Youth and Young Adults Were Unaccompanied and Experiencing Homelessness

(*Respondents could select more than one response)



*Does not include data from Lowell

Youth without homes can't wait! Please actively support the completion of the override of the Governor's veto of a \$675,000 investment in housing and services for unaccompanied youth in FY'18 and work for mid-year supplemental funds to bring the funding level up to \$2 million!