



**Take action: Please cosponsor and actively support key homelessness prevention, housing, and cash assistance amendments to the FY26 Senate budget**

- **[Amendment #557](#), "RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program," from Senator Gómez:** This amendment would make changes to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition homelessness prevention program line item (RAFT, line item 7004-9316) to increase the cap on RAFT benefits to \$10,000/household/year from \$7,000/household/year and move access to RAFT more "upstream" by prohibiting the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) from requiring a notice to quit from families and individuals seeking help with back rent or requiring a utility shut-off notice from families and individuals seeking help with back utility bills. The amendment also would require EOHLC to offer direct-to-tenant payments in cases where the property owner is unresponsive or refuses payment and direct EOHLC to provide forward rent payments if the award would not exceed the 12-month benefit cap. In addition, the amendment would ensure equal access for households living in public or subsidized housing.
- **[Amendment #219](#), "Improvements to Emergency Assistance for Children and Families," from Senator Gómez:** This amendment would increase the Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter length of stay cap from 6 months to 12 months and eliminate language that would set a 4,000-family cap on how many families could access shelter at time for December 2025–December 2026. In addition, the amendment would expand tracking and reporting language to include data on families placed on the EA waiting list, require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to make every effort to place families approved for EA immediately in traditional shelters, hotels/motels, or overflow spaces, and expand ombudsperson services within EOHLC, with language similar to that which was enacted with the FY22 budget. The amendment also would officially remove the EA asset limit and restore the 6-month grace period for families who exceed the EA income limit while in shelter.
- **[Amendment #156](#), "Emergency Assistance Shelter Notice," from Senator Friedman:** This amendment would change the Emergency Assistance statute to require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to provide at least 90 days' advance notice to the Legislature before taking action on imposing a 6-month time limit, cap on the number of families in shelter, and other restrictions when the Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities "has determined that the shelter system is no longer able to meet all current and projected demand for shelter from eligible families considering the facts and circumstances then existing in the Commonwealth."
- **[Amendment #153](#), "Rental Bridge Subsidies for Older Adults," from Senator Jehlen:** This amendment would establish a new line item under the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to expand the short-term housing bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults, aged sixty or older, who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness and add \$7.5 million to fund the expansion.
- **[Amendment #162](#), "Task Force to Establish Short-Term Housing Bridge Subsidy," from Senator Jehlen:** This amendment would establish a task force to guide the expansion of the short-term housing bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults, aged sixty or older, who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness. The language is similar to language in House Bill 4015/Senate Bill 475, An Act promoting housing stability for older adults across the Commonwealth.
- **[Amendment #90](#), "Improvements to HomeBASE," from Senator Jehlen:** This amendment would make changes to HomeBASE (line item 7004-0108) to increase the cap on benefits to \$50,000 per family over their first two years in the program, up from \$30,000, and increase the cap to \$25,000 in subsequent years, up from \$15,000. It also would tweak the language connected to the \$2.5 million earmark in the line item to allow

administering agencies to provide HomeBASE awards above \$50,000 over two years to families for whom the additional funds are "essential to resolve a housing crisis." In addition, the amendment would provide upstream access to HomeBASE benefits to prevent loss of existing housing and promote housing stability for families who otherwise would be eligible for the Emergency Assistance family shelter program and allow families to maximize resources under HomeBASE, RAFT, and other rental assistance programs. Finally, the amendment would carry over any unspent HomeBASE funds from FY25 into FY26.

- **[Amendment #222](#), "Housing Services for Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness," from Senator Miranda:** This amendment would increase funding for the youth homelessness line item (4000-0007) by almost \$1.5 million over the FY25 appropriation and the FY26 Senate Ways and Means proposed level to provide \$12 million in FY26. The program supports youth and young adults under the age of 25 in every region of the Commonwealth who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness on their own, without their parent or guardian.
- **[Amendment #150](#), "Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program," from Senator Lovely:** This amendment would increase funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, line item 7004-9024) by almost \$16.7 million over the FY26 Senate Ways and Means proposed level to provide \$270 million for MRVP mobile and project-based subsidies in FY26. It also would slightly increase the fee paid to administering agencies to at least \$55/voucher/month, instead of \$50/voucher/month.
- **[Amendment #522](#), "Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty," from Senator DiDomenico:** This amendment would improve the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC, line item 4403-2000) and Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC, line item 4408-1000) cash assistance programs. This amendment would provide 10% grant increases for TAFDC and EAEDC participants starting in January 2026 and provide additional funding in the accounts to pay for the grant increases. For TAFDC, the amendment would increase the Senate's proposed FY26 funding level by \$20.2 million to \$486,929,423. For EAEDC, the amendment would increase the Senate's proposed FY26 funding level by \$10.2 million to \$219,190,924.
- **[Amendment #986](#), "Somerville Older Adult Bridge Subsidy," from Senator Jehlen:** This amendment would add \$200,000 to the Local Housing Programs Earmarks line item (7004-0107) to support the continuation of the Somerville short-term housing bridge subsidy pilot program for low-income older adults, aged sixty or older, who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness. This pilot program is connected to the Coalition's ongoing campaign to establish a statewide bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults.
- **[Amendment #104](#), "EA Shelter Pilot," from Senator Kennedy:** This amendment would provide \$450,000 in the Emergency Assistance line item (7004-0101) to support a pilot in three regions of the state: South Shore, Western Massachusetts, and Central Massachusetts. The pilot would "identify and create regional solutions to reduce the number of families needing shelter."
- **[Amendment #246](#), "Boston Area Youth - Cash Assistance for Stable Housing," from Senator Edwards:** This amendment would add \$100,000 to the youth homelessness line (4000-0007) under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and earmark those funds for the launch of [BAY-CASH](#) to provide direct cash assistance to unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness. It would increase the Senate's proposed FY26 funding level for the youth homelessness line item to \$10,645,850.

See the Coalition's FY26 budget chart for more details and links: <https://tinyurl.com/mchfy26>

**Thanks for your leadership in the work to prevent and end homelessness!**

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