



MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS

Home Is Where the Care Is. What Do You Do When You Don't Have a Home?



Please endorse and actively support House Docket 359/Senate Docket 1357 to expand an Older Adult Bridge Subsidy Program for older adults facing housing instability throughout the Commonwealth.

www.mahomeless.org

Homelessness among older adults is expected to nearly triple by 2030.²

It's a call we all fear we will get. It's the call no one wants to make. But every day across Massachusetts, older adults are telling friends and family they're on the brink of homelessness. From Cape Cod to the Berkshires, communities across the Commonwealth are dealing with the fallout of the housing crisis — and the brunt of this epidemic is being felt by our most vulnerable residents. Whether struggling to afford rent or being forced to decide between this month's medications and groceries, more and more older adults are realizing they no longer have the resources to survive in our state.

The Solution:

So how can we turn the tide and support older adults facing housing instability? **Please join us to answer the call together and work to pass An Act promoting housing stability for older adults across the Commonwealth (House Docket 359, filed by Representative Shirley Arriaga, and Senate Docket 1357, filed by Senator Pat Jehlen.)**

The older adult bridge subsidy bill would expand a bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults, aged 60 years and older, facing housing instability. A version of the program currently is funded through the FY25 state budget (line item 7004-0107) as a pilot in the City of Somerville. The expanded program would allow eligible older adults from across the Commonwealth to remain in place while they await approval for long-term subsidized housing through programs such as the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) and state-funded public housing. Low-income older adults participating in the bridge subsidy program would pay 30% of their income towards rent, mortgage, or other housing costs, with the bridge subsidy making up the difference.

The bill also would create a steering committee to help guide the expansion of the bridge subsidy program. The state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) would lead the steering committee, which would include key stakeholders such as older adults with lived experience of housing instability, providers, advocates, legislators, and a representative from the state's Executive Office of Aging and Independence (EOAI).

Please take action today to endorse and actively support legislation to expand the Older Adult Bridge Subsidy Program!

2 Byrne, T., Culhane, D., Doran, K., Johns, E., Kuhn, R., Metraux, S., & Schretzman, M. (2019). The emerging crisis of aged homelessness. Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, UPenn. <https://aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness.pdf>



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