

Fiscal Year 2017 State Budget Priorities

- **Fund the Secure Jobs Initiative \$2 million (Line Item 7004-9322)** to maintain the current level of workforce development services for homeless families across the Commonwealth. Over the last three years, Secure Jobs has obtained employment for close to 1,000 homeless families statewide, and over 250 families in Western Massachusetts alone. This investment creates lasting housing stability for families and contributes to the Commonwealth's economic and community health.
- **Increase the individual shelter minimum bed rate to \$30/night (Line Item 7004-0102)** to provide an incremental increase (up from \$25/night) to all shelters statewide. This increase would address the current gap in meeting the costs of support services necessary to permanently house individuals.
- **Fund the Local Consortia to End Family Homelessness \$1.5 million (Line item 1599-0017)** to test new prevention and diversion strategies with flexible funding resources and to develop a coordinated entry system to ensure the most timely and appropriate interventions. Western MA has just launched two consortia across the region and funding in FY17 is vital to achieving the intended goals of this initiative.
- **Fund the Youth Demonstration Project \$4 million (Line item 4000-0007)** to support unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18 to 24 with housing and support services. In conjunction with the Consortia, Western MA has just begun to implement this program; continued investment in FY17 is critical to bringing vulnerable youth the stability they need to build healthy and productive futures.
- **Expand access to HomeBase to families in non-Emergency Assistance shelters, including shelters for domestic violence survivors and for families needing substance abuse treatment (Line-Item 7004-0108).**
- **Expand Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT, Line Item 7004-0108),** a homelessness prevention program, to include households of all sizes so as to allow unaccompanied adults, including elders, access to this homelessness prevention resource.
- **Fund the Western MA Network to End Homelessness \$125,000 (Line Item 7004-0102)** to continue to implement the Western MA Opening Doors Plan to End Homelessness in order to provide the coordination and collaboration necessary to end homelessness in Western Massachusetts.

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