

Housing First for Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties

The Western MA Network to End Homelessness Priority Amendments FY22 Senate Ways and Means Budget

- <u>Amendment #840</u> The Western MA Network to End Homelessness: *Sponsored by Senator Hinds* to fund the Western MA Network to End Homelessness at \$75,000 to allow for the Network to continue its work to prevent and end homelessness in the region.
- <u>Amendment #371</u> Extending CDC Eviction Protections: *Sponsored by Senator Jehlen and Senator Rausch* to extend CDC eviction protections in Massachusetts through the end of the year so that rental funds can be distributed and evictions can be prevented. Please stay tuned on Amendment updates as sponsoring Senators consider the implications of Governor Baker's decision to lift the state of emergency on June 15.
- <u>Amendment #444</u> Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP): *Sponsored by Senator Keenan* to increase direct MRVP funding to \$160 million to help meet the affordable housing need with an estimated 1,800 new vouchers.
- <u>Amendment #756</u>: RAFT: *Sponsored by Senator Crighton* to increase the appropriation to \$26.7 million to ensure adequate funding for those who do not qualify for federal assistance; to keep the \$10,000 maximum RAFT benefit in place after the COVID-19 emergency; and to allow families to access maximum benefits for both RAFT and HomeBASE to address the housing instability that will persist after the emergency is lifted.
- <u>Amendment #835</u> HomeBASE: *Sponsored by Senator Jehlen* to increase funding for HomeBASE to \$45 million, allowing families to renew HomeBASE benefits if otherwise facing a return to homelessness. The amendment would also decouple RAFT and HomeBASE benefits for the entire fiscal year to allow families to maximize both programs; and improve HomeBASE data collection with respect to race and ethnicity.
- <u>Amendment #837</u> Tenancy Preservation Program: *Sponsored by Senator Hinds* to increase funding to \$1.8 million to help prevent homelessness for persons with disabilities who face an eviction related to their disability.
- <u>Amendment #804</u>: Emergency Assistance: *Sponsored by Senator Chang-Díaz* to improve Emergency Assistance data collection to inform and drive better service to children and families experiencing homelessness.

For a chart on the Network FY22 budget requests in relation to the Senate Ways and Means budget proposal, please go <u>here</u>.

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