

Lead Sponsor: Representative Joan Meschino

The Opportunity

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the inadequacy of our region's social safety net in meeting the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness.

Supportive housing is a highly effective, cost-efficient strategy, and we have an opportunity to expand this proven model to youth and families who are equally vulnerable. To build the pipeline, we must braid public and private funding sources and streamline the administration of services to adults, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.

The need to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless men, women, and children has never been more acute. Homelessness is a public health crisis, and as our state continues to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must reimagine and rebuild the systems to provide safe, stable housing for everyone.

The Massachusetts Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool will:

- Ensure that existing state programs are deployed equitably to reach our most vulnerable residents;
- Create a statewide Funder's Collaborative to End Homelessness;
- Braid existing resources for housing and health care into a unified, flexible funding stream to support trauma-informed service delivery, regional coordination efforts, and integrated services; and
- Improve outcomes and identify best practices for sustained investments.

H.3838 focuses on:

- Creating a nimble pot of state funding through new legislation that would help meet the complex health and housing needs of our most vulnerable residents and fill in critical gaps; and
- Developing a unified, collective strategy to create housing and supportive services for high need/high user populations to save lives and public resources.

H.3838 aims to achieve:

- Improvement in overall health of participants, increased use of appropriate health services, and corresponding reduction in use of crisis care, such as hospital emergency rooms;
- Fewer days in jail, court, or police custody; and
- Increased stability and length of residency in supportive housing.

We urge you to prioritize the passage of [H.3838](#), the Massachusetts Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, sponsored by Representative Meschino. We have a unique opportunity to strengthen the coordination and delivery of supportive services that help people exit streets, doubled-up housing, and the shelter system.

We've made the one-time investment with ARPA—now is the moment to build upon housing infrastructure and wraparound health services that will create a solid foundation for economic recovery by advancing housing stability and building a stronger safety net that addresses the complex health needs of our most vulnerable residents.