Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Requests

The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness seeks to prevent and end homelessness through a Housing First approach that centers racial equity. Towards that end, its Fiscal Year 2024 state budget priorities include the following:

**Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (7004-9316):**
- **$250 million** to address the continuing housing instability crisis as evictions and homelessness rise in western Massachusetts. (FY23: $150m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $162.6m; FY24 House budget: $181m)
- **Remove the notice to quit requirement** that DHCD implemented in August 2022, which pushes households deeper into an eviction process before becoming eligible for RAFT.

**Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024)**
- **$250 million** to create 6,000 new vouchers, implement Small Area Fair Market Rents, and cover security deposits. (FY23: $154m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $168.2m; FY24 House budget: $173m)

**Public Housing**
- **Public Housing Operating Subsidies (7004-9005):** **$184 million** to ensure housing stability for the current and future public housing residents at the nearly 43,000 deeply affordable homes provided by local housing authorities. (FY23: $92m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $92m; FY24 House budget: $102m)
- **Public Housing Reform (7004-9007): $7.7 million** to fund administrative reforms and support the well-being of residents. (FY23: $1m; FY24 Governor’s budget: $2.2m; FY24 House budget: $2.2m)

**Homeless Individuals Assistance (7004-0102)**
- **$120 million** to meet emergency shelter needs and ensure equitable funding to the western Massachusetts region. (FY23: $110m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $110.7m; FY24 House budget: $110.8m)

**Home and Healthy for Good (Permanent Supportive Housing) (7004-0104)**
- **$8.39 million** to fund a vital resource for Permanent Supportive Housing in western Massachusetts. (FY23: $6.39m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $4.16m; FY24 House budget: $8.89m)

**Homelessness Support Services (Safe Havens Program) (5046-2000)**
- **$27.6 million** to create six new Safe Havens programs statewide, including one in western Massachusetts, for supported shelter for the most vulnerable chronically homeless individuals in our region. (FY23 budget $24.6m; FY24 Governor’s budget $24.6m; FY24 House budget: $24.6m)

**Older Adult Homelessness (NEW)**
- **$10 million in FY24 to create bridge subsidies for up to 1,000 older adults facing housing instability** — a challenge notably on the rise in the western four counties — that will allow them to remain in place while they await approval for a long-term subsidy.

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1 Roughly $60 million in unspent RAFT funds from FY22 carried over into FY23 brings total FY23 RAFT funding to approx. $210 million.
2 Includes language to carryover unspent funds from FY22 bringing total FY23 funding for MRVP to an estimated $175 million.
Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) (7004-9030)

- $26 million to create 250 new vouchers and allow project-based vouchers to create more deeply affordable and accessible homes for people with disabilities. (FY23: $13.7m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $14.1m; FY24 House budget: $14.1m)

Emergency Assistance (EA) for Children and Families (7004-0101)

- $325 million to serve the increasing number of children and parents, including newly arrived immigrant families, facing homelessness. (FY23: $219.4m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $324m; FY24 House budget: $324m)

- Increase the income eligibility limit from 115% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) to 200% FPG for EA applicants and increase the limit for families already in EA shelter from 200% to 285% FPG.

HomeBASE Program (7004-0108)

- $60 million to continue payments to households currently enrolled in HomeBASE that need an extension and to enroll new households in the program. (FY23: $59m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $42m; FY24 House budget: $59.4m)

- Increase HomeBASE payments from $20,000 over two years to $30,000 over two years, plus $15,000 for each additional year, with additional flexibility and allowance of increased income without the cliff effect. (INCLUDED in the FY24 House budget)

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Services (40000-0007)

- $12 million to create greater housing stability for youth and young adults ages 18–24 years who are without homes. (FY23: $9.5m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $10.5m; FY24 House budget: $10.5m)

Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) (7004-3036)

- $10.8 million in order for HCECs to continue to provide the vital gateway to housing stability and opportunity across the region. (FY23: $9.7m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $8.7m; FY24 House budget: $9.7m)

Tenancy Preservation Program (7004-3045)

- $2 million to preserve tenancies for households with disabilities who are facing eviction. (FY23: $1.8m; FY24 Governor’s budget: $2m; FY24 House budget: $2m)

Access to Counsel Program (NEW)

- $7 million to establish an access to counsel program for low-income tenants facing eviction. Right now in Massachusetts, 86% of landlords have legal representation in housing court, as compared to 11.5% of tenants. Access to counsel will create greater housing stability, address the racial inequity in homelessness, and save money.

Regional Transit Advancement (1595-6370) — Total Request: $150 million

- Operating Budget (1595-6370) to support regional transit (FY23: $96.5m, FY24 Governor’s budget: $102.8m; FY24 House budget: $94m)

- Fair Share (1596-2406 — new line-item) to specifically support regional transit (FY24 Governor’s budget: $6m; FY24 House budget: $70m)

The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness Earmark (7004-0107)

- $100,000 to continue the coordination and collaboration necessary to accomplish the Network’s mission to prevent and end homelessness across the four western counties with a Housing First approach that centers racial equity. (FY24 House budget: $25,000)

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3 includes language to carryover unspent funds from FY22 bringing total FY23 funding for AHVP to an estimated $19.2 million

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