



Fiscal Year 2026 State Budget Priorities

- **Permanent Supportive Housing**
 - **Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104): \$9.89m**
 - FY25: \$8.9m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$8.3m
 - **Sponsor-Based Permanent Supportive Housing (7004-0105): \$10.07m**
 - FY25: \$8.9m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$10.07m
- **Housing Consumer Education Centers (7004-3036): \$8.9m**
 - FY25: \$8.8m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$5m
- **RAFT (7004-9316): \$300m**; protect up to \$7,000 in rental assistance per year
 - FY25: \$197.4m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$202.4m
- **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024): \$300m**
 - FY25: \$219.2m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$253.3m
- **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) (7004-9030): \$30m**
 - FY25: \$16.3m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$19.4m
- **Public Housing Operating (7004-9005): \$153m**
 - FY25: \$113m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$115.5m
- **Individual Shelter Funding (7004-0102): \$121m**
 - FY25: \$110.7m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$110.7m
- **Shelter Workforce Development (7004-0109): \$10m**
 - FY25: \$10m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$0
- **Family Homelessness: Reverse the Drastic Reduction in Shelter Access; Fund HomeBASE (7004-0108) at \$80m** (level-funding) with increase of family cap to \$50,000 over first 24 months and \$25,000 in subsequent years; make it available further upstream
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Funding (4000-0007): \$15m**
 - FY25: \$10.5m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$10.5m
- **Access to Counsel: \$5m**
 - FY25: \$2.5m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$2.5m
- **Tenancy Preservation Program (7004-3045): \$2m**
 - FY25: \$2m; Gov.'s FY26 budget: \$0 (note: funding will be provided by MassHousing but zeroing out the line-item has concerning long-term consequences)
- **Elder Homelessness Bridge Subsidy Program: \$10m** (new line item)
- **The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness Earmark: \$100,000** to support the coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness across Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties. With thanks to our lead sponsor Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and the entire western MA delegation.

Fiscal Year 2026 The Framework for Our Priorities

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Permanent Supportive Housing is the proven housing solution for chronically homeless individuals and families with high needs. As the number of people living unsheltered has skyrocketed across our region, the Network joins with the statewide Supportive Housing Coalition in urging greater investment in permanent supportive housing as a top priority.

The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) is the linchpin for both affordable and supportive housing development across the Commonwealth. We join with our statewide partners in asking for greater investment in this lasting solution.

The Governor's allocation to the **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)**, which provides housing subsidies for people with disabilities, only provides enough funding to maintain the vouchers that already exist. With over 68,000 low income people with disabilities on the waiting list, we need to grow this critical program.

Public Housing requires our continuing investment as a crucial vehicle for permanently affordable housing in our region.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Housing Consumer Education Centers are the front door for tens of thousands of people across the four western counties seeking housing stability through the RAFT program and other housing stability services. A 44% cut, as proposed by the Governor, would decimate the program, threatening thousands of tenancies. This program must be protected to prevent a potentially dramatic increase in homelessness.

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) maintains tenancies and prevents homelessness. With over 600 RAFT applications each week in this region alone, the demand far outstrips the available resources. Funding must be increased to preserve tenants and prevent more homelessness.

Access to Counsel in Evictions: Right now, over 90% of landlords have attorneys in eviction cases while 6-7% of tenants have representation, creating a system that is both unjust and increases homelessness. The pilot program was a great start; now is the time to make it permanent and available to more who need it.

Tenancy Preservation Program: This program plays a pivotal role in preserving tenancies for people with disabilities who are facing the threat of eviction. The Governor's proposed reliance on MassHousing funding threatens long-term sustainability.

Elder Homelessness Bridge Subsidy Program: This program will help 1,000 older adults preserve their housing, especially critical as elder homelessness increases across the region.

KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

Shelter Funding for Individuals, Families: As we work towards long-term housing solutions, we must address the humanitarian crisis with appropriate levels of investment to keep people safe.

Shelter Workforce Development: This resource is critical to recruiting staff to work in shelters since the pay scale is not commensurate with other state funded Health and Human Services programs. This line-item was zeroed out by the Governor.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Services: This line-item provides a critical range of services—shelter, housing, support services—to help stabilize youth 18-24 years old who are homeless.

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment: We cannot provide lasting solutions to our homelessness crisis without adequately investing in programs that support domestic violence survivors and provide more comprehensive substance use and mental health treatment. Please protect them!