



Housing First
for Hampden, Hampshire,
Franklin and Berkshire Counties

FY2026 Senate Budget Priority Amendments

#428 – Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) (Senator Adam Gomez)

Restores a drastic 42% cut to HCECs to prevent the loss of substantial services for people at risk of homelessness, including potential local office closures in the western region.

#557 – Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (Senator Adam Gomez)

Moves access to RAFT further “upstream” – and prevents more homelessness - by eliminating the requirement for a Notice to Quit or utility shutoff to access benefits.

#150 – Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (Senator Joan Lovely)

Increases funding to \$270 million for approximately 800 new vouchers, a crucial step to address the dire lack of affordable housing in our region and across the Commonwealth.

#526 – Cliff Effect Program (Senators Adam Gomez and Jake Oliveira)

Provides continued support to WMass EDC/ Springfield WORKS for \$150,000 for continued support of a 3-year pilot program to mitigate cliff effects for families from across the Commonwealth.

#130 – Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program (Senator Jamie Eldridge)

Increases funding to \$21.548 million for housing people experiencing homelessness and disabling mental health conditions. This program plays a vital role in ending chronic homelessness.

#90 – HomeBASE (Senator Patricia Jehlen)

Increases funding for HomeBASE to \$64.8 million, improves access to upstream benefits and increases the grant limit per family to \$50,000 for the first two years and \$25,000 subsequently.

#171 – Maintaining Fair Housing (Senator Lydia Edwards)

Supports fair housing in Massachusetts by directing \$2 million for the operation of the Office of Fair Housing, \$1 million for the Fair Housing Trust and \$2 million for organizations participating in fair housing activities. Federal cuts to our fair housing organizations make this investment (and the amendments below) especially vital.

#10 and #218 – Fair Housing Centers (Senators Jamie Eldridge and Mark Montigny)

Provides \$200,00 for the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center and \$75,000 for the South Coast Fair Housing Center respectively to support their work to combat housing discrimination.

#105 – Tenancy Preservation Program (Sen. Robyn Kennedy)

Provides \$42,755 to support TPP and preserve the line item.

#222 – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Sen. Liz Miranda)

Increases funding to \$12 million for housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness.