

MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM

FY2019 FUNDING REQUEST: \$120 MILLION

MRVP provides housing stability and security to more than 8,000 low income households, including elders, disabled individuals, and families with children.

Support funding of \$120M for MRVP (line item 7004-9024) in FY2019.

RECENT SUCCESSES WITH MRVP:

- A reduction in the state's reliance on motels to house families experiencing homelessness;
- An increase of over 900 new units to the Commonwealth's supportive housing portfolio; and
- The preservation of affordability in units that would have otherwise been lost due to the loss of federal supports.

WHY NOW?

- The number of households experiencing housing instability and homelessness persists as Massachusetts remains one of the most expensive states in the nation in which to live.
- More than 60% of the Commonwealth's renter households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost burdened, needing to spend *more than half of their income* on housing costs; the same is true for 32% of MA renter households earning 31%-50% AMI. *
- HUD's 2015 *Family Options Study* demonstrated that families experiencing homelessness who secured a housing voucher experienced significantly better outcomes than other interventions. *Families able to access vouchers were less likely to reenter homelessness; more often remained intact; had fewer school interruptions for their children; and decreased their levels of toxic stress, including domestic violence.*
- Vulnerable residents of Massachusetts need reinvigorated state government supports for their stability amidst ongoing uncertainties within our federal policy environments.

WHAT WILL \$120M FOR MRVP IN FY2019 ACCOMPLISH?

- Annualize the cost of new supportive housing units and current vouchers, a projected maintenance cost of \$97.5M.
- Improve MRVP's effectiveness and reduce the amount of time it takes for voucher holders to obtain housing by setting allowable rents at HUD's area-wide, annually updated Fair Market Rent (currently \$1,740 for a 2-bedroom in the Boston area), thereby setting a baseline for vouchers that will work more effectively in the current market.
- Provide approximately 1,000 new mobile and project based vouchers beyond the current maximum utilization of the program.

* Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2015 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) housing file.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS CAMPAIGN CO-SPONSORS

Action for Boston Community Development
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness
AIDS Housing Corporation
Asian Community Development Corporation
Berkshire Housing Development Corporation
Boston Center for Independent Living
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
Boston Tenant Coalition
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of Greater Boston
Centerboard
Central Mass. Housing Alliance
Children's HealthWatch (BMC)
Children's Services of Roxbury
Citizens Inn
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City Life / Vida Urbana
City Mission
Community Teamwork
Crossroads Family Center
Developmental Disabilities Management Assistance, Inc.
Emmaus, Inc.
Economic Mobility Pathways - EMPATH
FamilyAid Boston
Family Independence Initiative
Family-to-Family Project
Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston
Father Bill's & Mainspring
Fenway Community Development Corporation
Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore
Heading Home, Inc.
Hearth
Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center
Home City Development, Inc.
Home Funders Collaborative
Homes for Families
Horizons for Homeless Children
House of Hope
Housing Assistance Corporation
Housing Families, Inc.

Housing Solutions for Southeastern MA
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
Jane Doe, Inc.
Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development
Lynn Shelter Association
Mass. Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
Mass. Association for Community Action
Mass. Association of Community Development Corp.
Mass. Association of Older Americans
Mass. Coalition for the Homeless
Mass. Housing and Shelter Alliance
Mass. Law Reform Institute
Mass. NAHRO
Mass. Public Health Association
Medical Legal Partnership, Boston
Metro Housing | Boston
National Association of Social Workers - MA
Neighbor-to-Neighbor
New Lease
North Shore Community Development Corporation
Pine Street Inn
Project Hope
RCAP Solutions
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
Rosie's Place
Rural Development, Inc.
ServiceNet
Shelburne Housing Authority
Sojourner's House
Somerville Homeless Coalition
South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation
Southcoast Regional Network to End Homelessness
South Middlesex Opportunity Council
St. Mary's Center for Women and Children
Victory Programs
Way Finders
Wellspring House
Western Mass. Network to End Homelessness
Women's Institute for Housing & Economic Development
The Women's Lunch Place



Housing Solutions Campaign:

Libby Hayes, Homes for Families, lhayes@homesforfamilies.org

Eric Shupin, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, eshupin@chapa.org