



Homes For Families Preliminary Analysis of the FY18 Conference Committee Budget

Outcomes in the fiscal year 2018 conference committee budget for key priority line items:

EA (7004-0101): EA is once again underfunded at \$155,878,948, with over \$1 million in earmarks. With actual spending for FY17 estimated at \$179,352,340, it appears EA is about \$23 million short. The funding is sufficient for 9 month EA contracts and no change was made to eligibility. The only new data requirement is that the number of families that become ineligible for being over income be reported.

HomeBASE (7004-0102): The increase to the benefit level to \$10,000 was not included, leaving the benefit level at \$8,000. The program was funded at \$30,147,305, less than the Governor's proposal of \$31,079,696. We are checking with DHCD on total FY17 spending to see how this aligns. The reduction of the 24 month bar to 12 months was incorporated, as was the expansion to sober living programs along with other DV and BSAS programs, though the \$300,000 cap remains.

MRVP (7004-9024): The line was cut down to \$92,734,677, below the Governor's proposed \$95.7 million. While this is still an increase of about \$6 million, it is not sufficient to cover any new vouchers. We are waiting for confirmation from DHCD on whether it will cover existing vouchers and/or allow for turnover.

Other Items of Note:

- RAFT is funded at \$15 million, with \$2 million designated for households without dependent children under the age of 21.
- Early Intervention was cut by 5% from FY17.
- The Earned Income Tax Credit was expanded to include survivors of abandoned spouses, a victory for DV survivors.
- The Learn to Earn program (DWD 7002-1080), a new targeted workforce development program, was funded at \$1 million.
- Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) (4403-2000) was funded at \$162.851,212million, which may cover a conservative caseload projection. There was an increase in the clothing allowance to \$300.