



# ON SOLID GROUND FY2019 BUDGET PRIORITIES

On Solid Ground Coalition strives to create a path for economic mobility and housing stability to reduce family homelessness through a four-pronged approach:

- Advancing **system coordination** and efficiency to improve access to support services for families;
- Combating **cliff effects** by changing policies that cause families to lose benefits due to higher earnings;
- Supporting efforts for increasing resources and opportunities for **affordable housing**; and
- Establishing a **data collection and sharing** system to enable evidence-driven policy design.

By prioritizing the following line items, the Coalition aims to make progress on the four prongs to get families in Massachusetts on solid ground.

LINE ITEM	PROGRAM	FY19 REQUEST	GOVERNOR'S FY19 BUDGET	FY18 BUDGET
7004-9024	Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)	\$120,000,00	\$97,469,569	\$92,234,677
7004-0108	HomeBASE	\$35,000,000	\$30,147,305	\$28,929,046
1599-0043	Child-Care Reserve Fund	\$18,800,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
7002-1080	Learn to Earn	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$990,000
7030-1500	Headstart funding	\$12,000,000	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000

For more information, contact Abhidhya Kurve, Policy Associate & Coordinator at CHAPA & On Solid Ground Coalition, at [akurve@chapa.org](mailto:akurve@chapa.org) or 617-910-7953

# DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ON SOLID GROUND FY2019 BUDGET PRIORITIES

## MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM (MRVP) (7004-9024)

FY19 REQUEST: \$120 MILLION

MRVP is the most effective tool to immediately help people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness find homes they can afford by providing a combination of project-based and mobile rental vouchers. \$120 million will increase the number of new vouchers available, help preserve affordable housing developments, and make programmatic fixes that will make vouchers more usable and reduce lengthy lease-up times.

## HOMEBASE (7004-0108)

FY19 REQUEST: \$35 MILLION

HomeBASE offers families an alternative to emergency shelter by providing stabilization services and up to \$8,000 in financial assistance to pay rent, utilities, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow them to stay in their homes, move, or live with another family. These funds will help further reduce the number of families staying in hotels and motels. In addition to the funds, we also request that families be allowed to renew HomeBASE until their income reaches 50% of the Area Median Income. This will help achieve the program's goal of ensuring housing stability and preventing a fall back into homelessness.

## CHILDCARE RESERVE FUND (1599-0043)

FY19 REQUEST: \$18.8 MILLION

The Childcare Reserve Funds go towards the reimbursement rates that programs (center based and family child care administration) receive to serve children via child care subsidies. \$18.8 million funding for childcare support will result in better childcare services for families with extremely low income.

## LEARN TO EARN (7002-1080)

FY19 REQUEST: \$1 MILLION

This program will provide credentials and employment for unemployed and underemployed individuals in occupations in high demand fields through partnerships between public agencies, businesses, community-based organizations, and career centers. Increased funding will help support the program and its evaluation for impact and improvement.

## HEADSTART PROGRAMS (7030-1500)

FY19 REQUEST: \$12 MILLION

The Head Start program is a nationally funded program that promotes school readiness through quality early education and services like health, mental health, nutrition, social services, and parent involvement. State funding of \$12 million would support salaries of early educators and strengthen the program to best prepare children for school. Strengthening early education for children gives them opportunities for economic mobility in life.

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