



# DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ON SOLID GROUND FY2020 BUDGET PRIORITIES

## HOMEBASE (7004-0108)

### FY20 REQUEST: Language change

HomeBASE offers families an alternative to emergency shelter by providing stabilization services and up to \$10,000 in financial assistance. These funds will help prevent families from becoming homeless by supporting the one-time costs for rent, utilities, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow them to stay in their homes, move, or live with another family. In addition to the funds, we also request the language changes that:

- Prevent families and landlords from having to go through the eviction process if furthered assistance can stabilize the tenancy
- Remove \$300,000 cap for households in DPH shelters and removes language requiring guidance be developed for referrals from EA to new vacancies

This will help achieve the program's goal of ensuring housing stability and reducing the cliff effects.

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

### FY20 REQUEST: \$130 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. \$130 million will increase the number of new vouchers available, bring vouchers amounts to current FMRs, help preserve affordable housing developments, and make programmatic fixes that will make vouchers more usable and reduce lengthy lease-up times.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (7004-0101)

### FY19 REQUEST: Language change

Policy reforms to the EA will help will help lessen Cliff effects for families and also to allow them to earn money, increase work experience, pay off debt. The specific language changes will help:

- Increase income cap for families in shelter to 200% Federal poverty level (FPL)
- Fund homelessness prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing
- Provide shelter to homeless children and families at imminent risk of staying in places not meant for human habitation – ensure eligibility for families and improve reporting
- Mandate 4-week time frame for housing search assistance
- Allow data reporting requirements on number of children in the system
- Clarify that the loss of HomeBASE qualifies as a loss of income for the purpose of shelter eligibility
- Mandate that at least \$4 million be expended on 60 newly contracted units for American Disability Act accommodations

PROGRAM	FY19 REQUEST
HomeBASE	\$28,000,000
Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)	\$130,000,00
Child-Care Reserve Fund	\$20,000,000
Learn to Earn	\$1,000,000
Headstart funding	\$12,000,000
Common App for SNAP & MassHealth	\$1,000,000
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	50% of the Federal EITC
Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	Language change
Emergency Assistance	Language change

## COMMON APPLICATION FOR SNAP & MASSHEALTH

FY20 REQUEST: \$1 MILLION

Senate recommendation of \$1,00,000 in funding will help create the path to bring substantial federal nutrition dollars to the Commonwealth, reduce health care costs, and boost automatic free meal status for thousands of children in Massachusetts schools.

## LEARN TO EARN (7002-1080)

FY20 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 thus providing a path for economic mobility for families.

## CHILDCARE RESERVE FUND (3000-1042)

FY19 REQUEST: \$20 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. \$20 million funding for childcare support will result in better childcare services for families with extremely low income. Investing to improve support services like childcare allows parents allot more time to professional development thus helping families move forward on the path of economic mobility.

## HEADSTART PROGRAMS (3000-5000)

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.

## EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) (OUTSIDE SECTION)

FY19 REQUEST: 50% OF FEDERAL EITC

The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality. We recommend an increase from 30 percent to 50 percent of the value of the federal EITC for all eligible recipients, making Massachusetts the leader in having the highest rate in the country.

## TRANSITIONAL AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (TAFDC) (4403-2000)

FY19 REQUEST: Language change

Policy reforms to the TAFDC benefits will help:

- Simplify and streamline program rules

The proposed reform to TAFDC will improve access to TAFDC program and help mitigate cliff effects.