

Dear Fellow Advocacy Network Members:

You should know, fellow advocates, that following our Senate alert of May 18, Senator Barrett's office received many calls and emails and by Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> had signed onto HomeBASE, RAFT, ABE, and MRVP. So thank you!

We are nearing the end of the budget process. In the days ahead, the Conference Committee will reconcile the House and Senate budgets and send a final budget to Governor Baker for his signature. Unless he vetoes the budget, that's the end of the 2016 budget season. **There is no guarantee that the funding levels and changes in eligibility language that we saw emerge from the House and Senate budgets will become part of the final budget. We need to speak loud and clear at this time if we want these changes to become enacted in 2016.**

Here are the members of the Conference Committee. If you are in their districts, it is especially important that they hear from you. Other advocates are urged to contact your own legislators, urging them to contact their House or Senate colleagues on the Conference Committee.

Senator Karen Spilka	Senator Viriato deMacedo
Senator Sal DiDomenico	Representative Stephen Kulik
Representative Brian Dempsey	Representative Todd Smola

Please contact your representative and senator starting **Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** and tell them that you urge the Conference Committee to:

- 1. Adopt the House's recommended funding level of \$90.9 million for MRVP, an incredible and much-needed \$25.9 million increase over the FY'15 allocation. We also urge adoption of the House language that would carry over up to \$8 million in unspent FY'15 funds to reach this level.*
- 2. Adopt the Senate's language that would require DHCD to provide shelter to otherwise eligible families who are at imminent risk of staying in places not meant for human habitation. Between July 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015, 365 families with children had to sleep in cars, bus stations, emergency rooms and other unsafe places before they were found eligible for emergency shelter (EA, line item 7004-0101).*
- 3. Adopt the House's higher proposed funding level of \$31.25 million for HomeBASE. We also encourage adoption of Senate language limiting the bar on receiving further assistance from the current 24 months to 18 months.*
- 4. Adopt the Senate's higher recommended appropriation of \$13.0 million for the RAFT homelessness prevention program. This increase of \$2 million over the FY'15 appropriation would allow DHCD to serve more families who are at imminent risk or currently experiencing homelessness.*
- 5. Adopt the Senate's funding level of \$31, 224,160 for Adult Basic Education (ABE).*

6. Adopt the Senate's language and funding for housing and wraparound services for unaccompanied youth and young adults through age 24 who are experiencing homelessness out on their own without a parent or guardian. The \$2 million in funding would be used to implement the new landmark unaccompanied youth homelessness law. New line item 4000-0007.

TO FIND CONTACT INFO FOR YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS SIMPLY USE: Ctrl+CLICK on <http://www.mass.gov/legis/> or go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com), or open the attached Rep. & Sen. Contact Info files.

For more information on FY2016 budget issues, visit our website:  
[www.endfamilyhomelessness.net/2016-budget-priorities/](http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net/2016-budget-priorities/)

Sincerely, **Frank Austin**, ANEFH Convener and **Jane Blumberg**, ANEFH Coordinator

