



Your advocacy work to date has us well positioned to see some significant funding increases and positive changes to programs that have a direct impact on families experiencing homelessness- as well as families at-risk of homelessness- in the upcoming fiscal year.

But our work is not done yet-

Currently, a committee of six legislators (Senators Karen Spilka, Sal DiDomenico and Vinny DeMacedo and Representative Brian Dempsey, Stephen Kulik, and Todd Smola) is meeting regularly to compromise the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget, both of which are favorable to families, yet differences in both funding recommendations and program delivery. It is now up to us to influence this committee to ensure the end result is one that maximizes the state's commitment to addressing family homelessness.

Homes for Families is submitting a letter with our recommendations, and we need you to make a call to both your state representative and senator to ask that they support these recommendations. Additionally, you can contact committee members directly to seek their support. If you are uncertain how to contact your elected officials, [click here](#). Or you can contact the switch board at the MA State House at [617-722-2000](tel:617-722-2000).

Below is a sample phone script you can use to speak about the [HFF priorities](#). Also, you are encouraged to read through our list of [secondary recommendations](#), and speak to those as you make your calls.

Sample script:

"Hi, my name is _____, and I live/work at _____ . First, I would like to thank the Representative/Senator for his/her work to prioritize the issue of family homelessness in the FY2016 budget. To ensure best outcomes for children and families facing housing instability, I ask that he/she make certain recommendations to the members of the assigned conference committee:

- Fund MRVP (line item 7004-9024) at the House recommendation of \$90.1 million,
- Fund EA (line item 7004-0101) at the House recommendation of \$155.1 million while adopting the Senate version of language recommendations that allows access to shelter to otherwise eligible families prior to their having to stay in a place unfit for human habitation,

- Fund HomeBASE (line item 7004-0108) at the House recommendation of \$31.3 million while adopting the Senate version of the language that would reduce the bar from 24 to 18 months on access to the program for families who have been previously terminated and,
- Fund the Homelessness Prevention and Stabilization Trust Fund at the House recommended \$11.5 million

Please add on any additional recommendations from the chart you would like to share with your elected officials.

We ask that you share this information with all staff and families, and that you provide the supports needed to make our collective efforts to influence the final budget a success. As always, we will keep you posted on how much impact you have.

Once again, thank you for your advocacy and support.