



FY2016 Legislative Budget Priority: HomeBASE

HomeBASE (a.k.a. Massachusetts Short Term Housing Transition Program) (Line Item 7004-0108)

Recommendation:

- Fund HomeBASE at \$30 million and allow families to access up to \$8,000 in household assistance to help families avoid entering shelter or to move out rapidly from shelter.

FY2015 funding:	\$26 million
FY2016 Governor's budget recommendation:	\$26.2 million
FY2016 CMHA budget recommendation:	\$30 million

HomeBASE (a.k.a. Massachusetts Short Term Housing Transition Program) is a homeless prevention program for Massachusetts families who are eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA). HomeBASE offers an alternative to shelter by providing stabilization services and \$6,000 in financial assistance to pay rent, utility bills, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow families to stay in their homes, move into new housing, live with another family, or to exit shelter. In the past year, 227 families per month Statewide have exited shelter with the use of Home BASE funds and this represents 43% of exits statewide.

Our Request:

Funding HomeBASE at \$30 million will provide adequate funding for the program allowing Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to offer HomeBASE Household and Moving Assistance to help families who qualify for the EA program and may already be in shelter or motels. Families will be able to exit shelter quicker and it will help other families avoid the need to enter shelter at all. Additionally, allow DHCD to provide up to \$8,000 per eligible family if additional funds will allow a household to obtain or retain safe housing. The current limit is \$4,000 per household and the DHCD has been using funds from the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Fund to provide up to \$2,000 in additional funds to help families exit shelter in FY'15, recognizing that many families need more than \$4,000 to exit shelter.

In Worcester County:

The Central MA Housing Alliance is the Regional Agency for the City of Worcester. In the first six months of FY'15, 128 families have received HomeBASE Household Assistance. In addition, there are 83 households ready to exit shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance between April 1st and June 30th. This includes families residing in shelter with CMHA, Friendly House and Youville.