



FY2016 Supplemental Budget Priority: Secure Jobs Initiative

Secure Jobs Initiative (Line Item 7004-9322)

A pilot program that provides job training, job search services and 12 months of housing stabilization services to families who are eligible for RAFT, HomeBASE, and EA and MRVP.

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| FY2015 funding: | \$500,000 |
| FY2016 Governor's budget recommendation: | \$500,000 |
| FY2016 CMHA budget recommendation: | \$500,000 |

- In 2013, The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Foundation launched and implemented the Secure Jobs Initiative pilot program, across **five regions of Massachusetts** to promote new partnerships between homeless and workforce development agencies, as well as state agencies.
- In Fiscal Year 2014, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in partnership with the Foundation expanded the program to **seven regions across Massachusetts** and allocated \$1.5 million in funding (\$1 million allocated through the Housing Trust Fund and \$500,000 through a new line-item: 7004-9322).
- These partnerships identify employable parents residing in short-term rapid re-housing and rental voucher programs, and assess their career skills and barriers to employment, and match these individuals to services that will help them overcome these barriers and connect with suitable employers in jobs with defined career ladders. After job placement, partner agencies provide one year retention services.
- Many young, working head of households in Massachusetts want and need to attend college to gain access to middle-income, skilled jobs and good careers, but lack the skills to make that a reality.
- The families in the Initiative are very low-income, many with TAFDC as their sole source of income and this program helps bridge the critical gap between housing and workforce development services. This is a holistic approach, built upon cross agency collaboration and sustainable relationships to increase family stability rather than stand-alone efforts. By bringing together the housing support agencies and employment training services, individuals are being served by those who best understand the individual circumstances.
- After two years, close to 1,000 people have been employed through the Secure Jobs Initiative with more receiving training across the Commonwealth.

In Worcester County:

Since January, CMHA has referred 40 individuals to the Secure Jobs Initiative for services.