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June 6, 2013

The Coalition's Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness FY'14 Budget Request - Update on the Budget Process for Line Item 4000-0300

Address the needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults through age 24 who are experiencing homelessness by funding housing and services and by conducting a count to better understand the scope of the need EOHHS (Executive Office of Health and Human Services) – Line Item 4000-0300).

Overview:

Include \$500,000 in the FY'14 budget through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services administrative line item for the ongoing work of the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission so as to determine the scope of need among unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 24 and younger who are experiencing homelessness, and to identify and implement potential models for appropriate service delivery to unaccompanied homeless youth in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the Commonwealth. Such funding would support and further the work of the Commission, which was established through the FY'13 budget process, and brings together representatives from key executive branch offices/departments (such as the Departments of Children and Families, Transitional Assistance, and Housing and Community Development), members of the Legislature, youth affected by the issue, and representatives of statewide nonprofit agencies and advocacy organizations.

Proposed Language in Line Item 4000-0300:

"\$500,000 for the work of the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission to determine the scope of need among unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 24 and younger who are experiencing homelessness, and to identify and implement potential models for appropriate service delivery to unaccompanied homeless youth in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the Commonwealth."

Proposed Allocations:

- o \$150,000 to pilot a survey of unaccompanied homeless youth in 3-5 areas within Massachusetts and conduct youth outreach
- o \$300,000 to fund 3-6 demonstration projects to identify service and housing models appropriate to support unaccompanied homeless youth in education and successful transition from childhood to adulthood
- o \$50,000 to fund a part time staff person or consultant to oversee implementation, to analyze data, and to report to the Special Commission

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE FY 14 BUDGET PROCESS?

FINAL HOUSE VERSION OF FY14 BUDGET (passed in April)

- **Amendment #503 of Rep. O'Day and others to add \$500,000 and language to the EOHHS Administrative Line Item did not pass.**
- **However, In Line Item 4000-0300 for Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Resources, the House included a recommended \$150,000 for funding and the requested language.**

" provided further, \$150,000 shall be expended for the work of the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission to determine the scope of need among unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 24 and younger who are experiencing homelessness, and to identify and implement potential models for appropriate service delivery to unaccompanied homeless youth in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the Commonwealth;"

FINAL SENATE VERSION OF FY14 BUDGET (passed in May)

- Amendment #657 filed by Sen. Katherine Clark and others to add \$500,000 to the Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS) Line Item 4000-0300 was rejected.
- NO funding for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Resources was included.

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE FY14 BUDGET (will draft the final FY14 Budget in June)

Joint Conference Committee Members have been appointed: Rep. Brian Dempsey, Rep. Stephen Kulik, Rep. Vinny deMacedo, Sen. Stephen Brewer, Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, Sen. Michael Knapik will reconcile the differences in the House and Senate Budget and come up with a final FY 14 Budget to come up for a vote in the House and Senate usually the last week in June.

ACTION: Call your state legislators to contact their respective Conferees on the Joint Conference Committee to include the \$150,000 in funding for Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Resources and language in the House Version of Line Item 4000- 0300 in the final FY14 Budget.

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley, Director of Legislative Advocacy, at 781-595-7570 x17 or kelly@mahomeless.org.

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