

# FY26 STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES



## Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity

- **Community Action Agency Support (Line item 7004-0025)** Addresses inequality, promotes opportunity and ends poverty by supporting Community Action Agencies. \$7.5M

## Strengthen Families through Affordable & Accessible Early Education and Care

- **Support Early Education Provider Rate Reserve (Line item 1596-2434)** Current subsidy rates remain 20-30% below private market rate and the rate reserve pays provider workforce salaries and keeps programs open that serve low-income children. \$45M
- **Workforce Personal Child Care Program (Line item 1596 - 2411)** This successful program has assisted over 1200 early educators in the past 3 years by providing early ed services to 1800 children. \$20M
- **Support Head Start (Line Item 3000-5000)** The HS Supplemental Grant leverages over \$168M in federal funding for our lowest-income children \$20M
- **C3 Grant Level Fund (Line item 1596-2410)** Maintains prioritization of low-income children. \$475M

## Supporting Affordable Housing

- **Mass Rental Voucher Program (Line item 7004-9024)** MRVP provides long-term stable housing for nearly 10,500 families. \$300m
- **Codify MRVP (H.1547/S1008)** Offering the long-term certainty developers and property managers need to support affordable housing efforts.
- **Rental Assistance for Families in Transition (Line Item 7004-9316)** RAFT cures rental or mortgage arrearages for families at risk of homelessness. It enables those facing temporary hardships to achieve housing stability. This benefit level of \$7K over 12 months must not be reduced. \$300M
- **HCEC (Line item 7004-3036)** During FY 2024, the Housing Consumer Education Centers provided 222,360 services to 75,427 Massachusetts families. If the Governor's proposed cuts are enacted by the legislature, this cut of 44% would result in massive staff layoffs at every HCEC, and a reduction in services by nearly half. Such a cut would mean that our most vulnerable families facing housing crises would be left without the resources to remain stably housed. \$10M
- **HomeBASE (Line item 7004-0108)** Provides assistance to enable families in (or eligible for) shelter to achieve long-term housing stability, with supports. \$80M
- **Establish Local Options for Real Estate Transfer Fees to fund affordable Housing (H2056/S1937)**

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