

Massachusetts Mental Health Coalition

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Massachusetts Association of
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Massachusetts Association of
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Massachusetts Health and
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Parent Professional Advocacy
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Please Co-Sponsor Amendment #798 A Critical Increase to the Rental Subsidy Program for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients (DHCD line item 7004-9033)

**People who have serious and disabling mental health conditions *and*
who are homeless are the most vulnerable among the vulnerable.
Their needs are urgent. The time is NOW to:**

- Discharge patients whose inpatient treatment course is complete and no longer qualify for acute care, yet are stuck in hospital facilities because of lack of supportive housing
- House the 3,178 people with serious mental illness that experience homelessness on any single night in Massachusetts (US Department of Housing & Urban Development, 2018)
- Meet the needs of people in treatment courts who face jail time without access to quality, affordable housing tied to treatment services
- Provide for unstably housed adults with mental health conditions living with aging or infirm parents
- Further reduce emergency department boarding—people waiting for beds to open in psychiatric inpatient units

“Without a safe, affordable place to live, it is almost impossible to achieve good health or to achieve one’s full potential.”

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The additional sum of \$1 million in DHCD line item 7004-9033 will provide for new housing vouchers to roughly 80 people who are homeless or stuck in hospitals.

These vouchers will meet a portion of the need among DMH clients for quality, affordable housing as detailed in the DMH Housing Plan. A safe and stable home is critical to their effective treatment and recovery.

**Please support this increase to improve the lives
of people with mental illness, their families and their communities.**

For additional information, contact Jessica Larochelle, MPH at the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH): 617-742-7452 or jessicalarochelle@mamh.org

