

Please add an additional \$1 million to:
DMH: 5046-0000 Adult Mental Health Services and Supports,
RENTAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM
over the Governor's FY20 budget proposal (H.1)

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 health conditions that experience homelessness on any single night in Massachusetts (US Department of Housing & Urban Development, 2018)
- End emergency department boarding of people waiting for beds to open in psychiatric inpatient units
- 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



“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 \$1 million in DMH line item 5046-000 in the FY20 budget will provide for new housing subsidy vouchers to approximately 80 people who are homeless, stuck in hospitals, or living in unstable housing.

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.



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