



One Family, Inc. 2020 Advocacy Agenda

1 Prevent family homelessness by providing pathways to self-sufficiency

Provide one-on-one support focused on higher education achievement and career success

- State legislation: Maintain the Commonwealth's investment in the One Family Scholars program, Budget line item 7070-0065; An Act Relative to Economic Mobility for Families with Low Income, H.173/S.58
- Long-term state policy objective: Establish a Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) line item in the state budget to provide coaching that promotes self-sufficiency and asset-building to anyone eligible for state or federal housing assistance or family shelter.

Eliminate the 'Cliff Effect' – a sudden decrease or loss of public benefits due to a modest increase in income - because it discourages progress towards self-sufficiency.

- State Legislation: An Act Relative to Economic Mobility for Families with Low Income, H.173/S.58

Ensure that all families experiencing homelessness and housing instability and low-income families with young children can access affordable and high-quality childcare, to support self-sufficiency and healthy child development.

- State legislation: An Act Relative to Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Education and Care, H.470 /S.288
- Federal legislation: Reauthorize the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program and increase funding

Help low-income families build assets through enhancements to tax provisions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- State legislation: An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Working Families, H.2434; An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Healthier Families, S.1646; An Act to Support Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Expand Access to the Earned Income Tax Credit, H.2431 /S.1640; Funding for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) sites (Budget line item 1201-0100)
- Federal legislation: Working Families Tax Relief Act, H.R.3157/S.1138

Restore investment in public higher education, and expand access to scholarships and college success support for heads of household who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

- State legislation: Cherish Act, H.1214.S.741; Governor Baker's proposed College Affordability and Success Trust Fund; MassGrant/MassGrant Plus (Budget line item 7070-0065)

Eliminate racial, ethnic and gender disparities in housing, college access and completion, student debt and employment.

- State policy: Support the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Equity Agenda
- Federal policy: Oppose the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s efforts to weaken tools for fighting housing discrimination

Provide families experiencing homelessness and housing instability with information regarding employment and training resources including the MassHire Career Centers, and assist with transportation as needed to facilitate access to those resources.

Eliminate homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity among Massachusetts college students, including students raising a family, and make campuses more family-friendly for "new traditional" students raising children.

- State Legislation: An Act Establishing a Community College Campus Hunger Pilot Program, H.1233/S.757

Ensure all families entering shelter are placed into shelters within or near their home communities and provided transportation resources as needed, minimizing job loss and other barriers to self-sufficiency, and helping maintain access to health care.

2 Prevent family homelessness by providing access to affordable, safe, and livable homes

Increase the availability of affordable homes, rental vouchers and other housing supports that provide housing stability while families work to increase their income and afford market-rate homes.

- State legislation: An Act Relative to Housing Reform, H.1288/S.775; An Act Setting a Housing Production Goal for The Commonwealth, H.1318; Governor Baker's Housing Choices legislation, H.3507; Public housing (line item 7004-9005); Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) (line item 7004-9316); Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MVRP) (line item 7004-9024)
- Federal legislation and policy: The American Housing and Economic Mobility Act of 2019, H.R. 1737/S.787; Establish an Emergency Assistance Fund to help low-income households experiencing a housing crisis

3 Amplify voices of families who have experienced homelessness & housing insecurity

Make it easier for adults experiencing homelessness to register and vote.

- State legislation: An Act Providing a Bill of Rights for People Experiencing Homelessness, S.816/H.1314

Establish a Student Tuition Recovery Fund to refund tuition and other costs to students harmed by for-profit schools that have closed, failed to provide promised services, or violated state law.

- State legislation: An Act Establishing a Student Tuition Recovery Fund, S.164

Help families remain in their homes by re-establishing the Rent Arrearage Assistance Program, and by ensuring access to legal representation for anyone facing eviction.

- State legislation: An Act to Further Provide a Rental Arrearage Program, H.1264; An Act to Ensure Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings, H.3456/S.913; Designate part of the Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) Budget account for 'upstream' homelessness prevention assistance to households who have fallen behind on rent or mortgage payments but are not yet in the eviction or foreclosure process

Ensure that all "affordable housing" is truly affordable for low- and moderate-income families in the community where it's located.

- State legislation: An Act Adjusting Area Median Income Based on Zip Code, H.189

Count all homeless families.

- State legislation: An Act to Ensure a Complete, Accurate, and Equitable Census Count, S.422
- Federal legislation: The Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2019, H.R. 2001

Build self-sufficiency supports into the Emergency Assistance shelter system that continue after shelter exit, based on input from families who have experienced homelessness.