

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

Status

Signed Into Law

Bill

Chapter 28 of the Acts  
of 2023

## Public Higher Education, K-12, and Early Education & Care

### Highlights

1

#### Expands Access to Public Higher Education

- Provides *tuition equity* for students regardless of family background
- Invests **\$50 million** in *free community college*, including:
  - **\$20 million** for *MassReconnect*
  - **\$18 million** for *nursing students*, and
  - **\$12 million** to build capacity for universal free community college
- Provides **\$25 million** to encourage *degree completion* in areas facing workforce shortages

2

#### Supports Public K-12 Students

- Makes *universal school meals* permanent, funded at **\$171.5 million**
- Provides historic levels of *Chapter 70* funding at **\$6.59 billion** while doubling minimum aid to **\$60 per student**
- Addresses post-COVID inflation with **\$100 million** in Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) capital support
- Creates *Green School Works* to support clean energy infrastructure at public schools

3

#### Makes Landmark Investments in Child Care

- Invests the largest ever amount in early education and care at **\$1.5 billion** to expand access for Massachusetts families
- Provides **\$85 million** for the *Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grants* to address affordability and keep the doors of child care centers open post-pandemic



#### It funds the Senate's Student Opportunity Plan

- ✓ **In-state tuition** for all residents
- ✓ **FREE community college** for nursing students & students 25+
- ✓ Lays groundwork for **universal FREE community college** by fall 2024



#### The Student Opportunity Plan also includes

- ✓ A historic **\$1.5 billion** investment in early education and care
- ✓ **\$6.59 billion** in Student Opportunity Act funding for public K-12 schools
- ✓ Making **universal free school meals** permanent

*This budget represents a major step forward for our Commonwealth, particularly in making higher education more affordable and more accessible to everyone—which is crucial to securing our long-term competitiveness, providing residents with concrete ways to create the futures they dream of, and continuing our state's commitment to education at every level.*

**KAREN SPILKA**

President of the Massachusetts  
State Senate



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## Community Support & Local Aid

### Highlights

- Provides **\$1.27 billion** in funding for **Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA)** to support additional resources for cities and towns
- Includes **\$184 million**, including **\$90 million from Fair Share funds**, for **Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)** to connect all regions of the Commonwealth
- Provides **\$51.5 million** for **payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)** for state-owned land
- Invests more than **\$47 million** in **libraries**, including:
  - Nearly **\$17 million** for **regional library local aid**
  - **More than \$17 million** for **municipal libraries**
  - And more than **\$6 million** for **technology and automated resource networks**



## Expanding & Protecting Economic Opportunities

### Highlights

- Invests nearly **\$650 million** to continue efforts to **lift families** out of deep poverty
- Provides **\$60 million** for **adult basic education** services to improve **workforce skills** and **\$20 million** to the **Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund** to connect under- and unemployed workers with higher paying jobs
- Addresses food insecurity with a **\$36 million** investment in the **Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program** and a **\$21 million** investment in **Healthy Incentives Programs (HIP)** to maintain access to healthy food options for households in need
- Supports access to justice with **\$15 million** for a **Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program** to provide economic support to communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system and providing that the Department of Correction and sheriffs must provide phone calls at no cost to persons receiving and initiating phone calls, with no cap on the number of minutes or calls

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## Health, Mental Health & Family Care

### Highlights

1

#### Expands Access to Quality Health Care

- Provides over **\$19 billion** for *MassHealth*
- Invests **\$582 million** in nursing facility *Medicaid* rates, including **\$112 million** to *pay nurses competitive wages*
- Supports *reproductive health* at **\$3 million**
- Provides **\$1 million** for *maternal health*

2

#### Supports Vulnerable Residents

- Supports individuals with *intellectual and developmental disabilities* at nearly **\$3 billion**
- Invests more than **\$213 million** in a complete range of *substance use disorder treatment and intervention* services
- Provides nearly **\$43 million** for *Early Intervention (EI) services* for children with developmental delays and disabilities
- Provides more than **\$26 million** for *local Councils on Aging*

3

#### Invests in Mental Health for Everyone

- Provides nearly **\$120 million** for *children's mental health services*
- Invests nearly **\$34 million** in *Family Resource Centers* to provide services in communities
- Assists *emergency department diversion initiatives* with a **\$25 million** investment
- Continues the important work of the *Behavioral Health, Access, Outreach and Support Trust Fund* with **\$20 million**
- Provides **\$6 million** for *Social Emotional Learning* grants in *K-12 schools*
- Invests **\$5 million** in *Children Advocacy Centers*



#### It expands access to quality health care

- ✓ Eases the **workforce crunch** by allowing professional nurses to train new nurses
- ✓ Increases the number of people eligible for **affordable health insurance**
- ✓ Protects ACA **preventive health services** from cost-sharing, such as co-pays



#### It invests in mental health

- ✓ **\$119.8 million** for children's mental health
- ✓ **\$33.8 million** for Family Resource Centers
- ✓ **\$25 million** for emergency department diversion initiatives for every age
- ✓ **\$6 million** for Social Emotional Learning and mental health screenings in K-12 schools

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Recognizing *education and health* as the *cornerstone of our economic prosperity*, this budget makes substantial investments in those areas by increasing *local school district funding*, expanding *access to community college*, and *safeguarding life-saving preventive health services*.

CINDY FRIEDMAN

Massachusetts State Senate Ways  
and Means Vice Chair





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## Transportation

### Highlights

- Provides **\$181 billion** for **MBTA capital projects**, while providing **\$20 million** to address ongoing **safety concerns** and **\$5 million fare-free MBTA rides**
- Invests **\$100 million** in **supplemental aid for roads and bridges**, with half focused on the total mileage of participating municipalities to **support rural communities**
- Supports **Regional Transit Authorities** (RTAs) at **\$90 million**
- Provides nearly **\$6 million** for **water transportation** to increase access to public transit

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Constituents are going to **see and feel the impact of the transformative investments** made in this budget. **Early educators** will feel it in their paychecks. **RTA riders** will experience it in their commutes. **College students** will see it in their financial aid awards. **Town officials** will notice increases in their balance sheets.

MassSenate

**JO COMERFORD**

Massachusetts State Senate Ways  
and Means Assistant Vice Chair



## Housing

### Highlights

- Invests a historic **\$1.05 billion**, dedicating resources to programs that support housing stability, residential assistance, and assistance to those experiencing homelessness
- Prioritizes relief for families and individuals who faced challenges brought on by the pandemic, including **\$324 million** for **Emergency Assistance family shelters** and **\$190 million** for **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)**
- Provides **\$180 million** for the **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)** and **\$26 million** for the **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)**, creating over 1,000 new vouchers
- Invests **\$37 million** for the **HomeBASE** diversion and rapid re-housing programs
- Makes permanent a **pandemic-era eviction protection for renters** with pending applications for emergency rental assistance



#### Other FY24 budget highlights

- ✓ Makes COVID-era **eviction protections** permanent
- ✓ Requires **no-cost calls** for individuals who are incarcerated
- ✓ Invests **\$20 million** to connect un- or under- employed **workers** with higher paying jobs

MassSenate

MassSenate

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget  
2023–2024 Legislative Session