



2019-2020 Legislative Session Public Policy Priorities

The Public Policy program works to further Rosie's Place's mission within the larger socio-political context by representing the interests of Rosie's Place guests at the State House through direct lobbying, coalition building and by empowering guests and Rosie's Place supporters to be actively involved in advocacy.

Our priorities are set based on guests' needs and intend to raise the floor of support to poor, homeless, and at-risk women. To that end, our 2019-2020 priorities will focus on legislative advocacy and defense of budget line items. We will do this by working closely with coalitions and independently to support our guests and others in the Commonwealth.

Legislative Advocacy

Healthcare & Access:

- Dental Access (2017-18 Session: S.1169/H.4454) – Dental care is pivotal to ensure complete healthcare. Together with Health Care for All, we will fight to increase dental care access for poor people by expanding the number of service providers that accept MassHealth across the commonwealth.

Safety Net & Public Benefits:

- Closing SNAP Gap (2017-18 Session: S.612/H.101) – Massachusetts residents have to navigate a complex system of benefit applications that create barriers for people and waste for the state. In addition, too many individuals and families who are eligible for MassHealth and likely for SNAP are going without their needs met. Together with MLRI and the SNAP Coalition, we will fight to combine applications to improve access, create further stabilization, and reduce churn.

Housing & Homelessness Prevention:

- Safe Space to Sleep (2017-18 Session: H.659) – No homeless person or family should be sleeping in unsafe and unsuitable spaces. Together with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, we will fight to ensure emergency shelter must be available with urgency upon a person becoming homeless.

As coalition groups Rosie's Place belongs to finalize their legislative priorities, we may add other priorities to our efforts for the legislative session.

Budget Advocacy

Budgets are more than just financial allocations, they are moral documents that tell society what we value and by how much. Therefore, it is vital that we strive to retain key funding provisions that support our guests and poor people and work to expand them.

- RAFT, MRVP, & EA Shelters – Today's housing crisis is one of eviction and homelessness. We must protect funding for key housing programs and fight to increase funding to end housing insecurity and homelessness.
- SNAP/Health Incentives Program (HIP) & TAFDC – Access to enough support to purchase food and basic needs is essential to being healthy people. We must protect and increase funding for anti-poverty programs.

At Rosie's Place, we don't just educate our guests in the democratic process. We strive to engage and empower them through it.