



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
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**House Passes Balanced Budget with Targeted Investments in
Education, Housing, Environment**

Representative Jon Santiago secures \$112,000 for district priorities

April 29, 2019 – BOSTON – Last week State Representative Jon Santiago (D-Boston) joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass its Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget, which invests in programs and services across the Commonwealth. Funded at \$42.7 billion, the House budget makes major investments in education, housing, substance use disorder services, healthcare, and other areas while projecting a more than \$200 million deposit into the Stabilization Fund – bringing the fund’s balance to more than \$2.5 billion to safeguard the future of vital programs and services.

“With the leadership of Speaker Deleo and Chairman Michlewitz, we made significant investments across the Commonwealth in the areas of education, transportation, housing, and public health, including our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic,” said **State Representative Jon Santiago**. “I am also proud that we were able to successfully advocate for an additional \$112,000 in funding for critical projects in the South End, Roxbury, Fenway, and Back Bay.”

In the South End and Roxbury, \$25,000 has been allocated to Boston Healthcare for the Homeless to establish a pilot program to increase substance use disorder outreach and needle collection. An additional \$25,000 has been allocated to the Friends of the South End Library to renovate the South End Library Park, a vibrant civic space that provides critical services and programming to our community. Lastly, \$50,000 has been allocated to the South End’s Community Music Center of Boston for capital improvements and \$12,000 to assist with Muddy River cleanup efforts in the Fenway/Back Bay.

Also included in the budget is the designation of the Mary Longley Garden section of the Southwest Corridor Park. Honoring Mary Longley, the founder of the first Tenant’s Development Corporation and a trailblazing South End tenants rights advocate, a garden will be created in the crescent adjacent to Northampton and Watson street, across from the Carter School playground.

The budget continues the Legislature’s commitment to fight the **opioid epidemic** – a public health crisis that has touched nearly every household across the Commonwealth. To help those in need, the House budget gives all EMS and ambulance companies access to discounted naloxone, making it more available for use in the field. In addition, the budget includes:

- \$143.9 million for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, which will help create five new recovery centers across Massachusetts;
- \$49.4 million for the Substance Use Disorder Trust Fund; and
- \$1.5 million increases for Massachusetts Access to Recovery Services.

The House budget represents some of the biggest increases seen in a generation when it comes to **housing and homelessness funding**. Access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing is essential and provides the foundation from which families and individuals can lead successful lives. This year, the House continues these efforts by providing:

- \$110 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP);
- \$72 million for Public Housing Subsidies;
- \$7.2 million for Alternative Housing Voucher Program; and
- \$53.4 million for Homeless individual shelters.

The House calls for over \$282 million in spending for **environmental programs**. These funding levels will ensure that the state keeps up with the needs of its parks and environmental protections programs. These investments include:

- \$46 million for State Parks and Recreation;
- \$61 million for the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- \$1.5 million for Watershed Protection.

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the budget will be increasing the Commonwealth's contribution into the Community Preservation Act, which will ensure that over \$36 million more will be distributed to projects all across the Commonwealth and will help raise the state's match up to 30 percent for investments in **open space, affordable housing and historic preservation**.

The budget will now go to the Senate.

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