

Here's how you can help in reversing budget cuts proposed in youth programs, both on youth jobs and youth violence prevention/positive youth.
****All of what's below is also in the attachment, in case that's more readable.**

There are 2 main asks to make of your legislators now:

1. To co-sponsor budget amendments to restore funding cut by House Ways and Means or increase it--see below for the two windows of time they can do this, one between now and tomorrow afternoon and the other up to April 24 and see below for the state legislator who is filing the amendment and your legislators should call that person's office saying they want to co-sponsor the amendment.
2. Asking them to attend the Caucus Meetings on these budget amendments with House leadership to fight for these amendments which are held April 24-26 during the budget debate week; see below for details

1. Between now and Friday Afternoon, call you state representatives and ask them to co-sponsor these budget amendments, see below, by calling the named legislator(s) who are sponsoring each of the ones that's important to your organization.

2. Between April 16-24

a.If your legislators did not yet co-sponsor the budget amendments by tomorrow afternoon, continue to call them to do so. They can be co-sponsor them still by them or their aide signing a page in an amendments book kept in the House Clerk's Office starting on Tuesday April 17 and up to the afternoon of April 24. Legislators know this procedure and option.

b. For the budget debate and vote week of April 23-26, your are asking them to pledge to attend the caucus meeting of legislators supporting a specific amendment with the House leadership to make the case for the amendment. The legislators know about this process. What happens is during the House debate an announcement is made that all legislators interested in amendments under a area of the budget like Public Safety for Shannon or Labor and Workforce Development for YouthWorks Youth Jobs, or Department of Education of School-to-Career Connecting Activities, or Health and Human Services for the 2 DPH YVP and YARG programs and the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative

	Last Year	Our Goal	Hse Ways&Means
1. YouthWorks Youth Jobs Program Budget Line Item 7002-0012	\$9M/\$7M**	\$12 M	\$6,915,087

Last year the Legislature passed \$7 million and the Patrick Administration added \$2 million from a Byrne federal grant so \$9 million was spent. If only \$6.9 million were spent as House Ways and Means proposes, we'd lose 1200 youth jobs compared to last year.

****Rep. Jeff Sanchez and Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera are filing amendments to increase the funding for this.**

2. School-to-Career Connecting Activities \$2.75 M \$5 M \$2M
Youth Jobs Program Budget Line Item
7027-0019

****Rep. Carlos Henriquez and Rep. Cheryl Coakley Rivera will both file amendments on this.**

3. Shannon Anti-Gang Violence Program \$8 million \$9M \$2M
8100-0111

****Rep. Carlos Henriquez is filing the amendment on this.**

4. DPH Youth Violence Prevention Program \$1M \$2M \$1M
4590-1506

Rep. Jeff Sanchez is filing the amendment on this.

5. DPH Youth at Risk Program \$1.7 M \$2.5 M \$1.8 M
4590-1507

Rep. Kevin Honan is filing the amendment on this.

6. MA Safe and Successful Youth Initiative \$10M \$10M 0
4005-0005

The lead sponsoring legislator on this will be known by this afternoon and we'll let you know.

7. Supporting amendments filed by MAPS on the ASOST program 7061-9611 (was level funded at \$1.410 M and by MA Mentoring on the Mentoring Program 7061-9634 (not clear yet if refunded)

Revenue and Taxes (the elephant in the room!!)

These budget cuts are exacerbated by the state's revenue shortfalls due to the Recession and previous large tax breaks given to major corporations and to more higher income individuals. It's important that your organization also consider joining the campaign for new tax revenue to prevent more budget cuts and enable needed budget increases. Contact Andi Mullen at MA Coalition for Our Communities to join this campaign.

"Mullin, Andi" <AMullin@massteacher.org>, We are part of it and would encourage you to be too. This coalition of community groups and unions did much of the organizing to defeat the two big tax cutting referendums that were defeated in 2008 and 2010