

INVESTING IN INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES: Housing

The following three icons highlight some of the many issues addressed in the budget and legislative session. Absence of an icon generally indicates that work needs to be done on the issue or that the item simply provides information.

 One of the legislative priorities identified by EPI prior to this year's session.

 Significant progress.

 Mixed bag—some, yet inadequate, progress.

 **Source of Income:** Landlords can no longer discriminate against potential tenants because of how the tenants would pay their rent; this means that landlords cannot refuse to accept Section 8 housing vouchers.

 **Real Estate Conveyance Tax and Affordable Housing:** The FY2022 budget establishes a Housing Production Fund (HPF) to build new affordable housing units and support a new municipal housing development partnership initiative focused on improving local capacity and removing barriers to affordable housing at the local level. The HPF will be funded by doubling the real estate conveyance tax on the portion of sales of residential property over \$800,000 and allocating additional funds from the tax collected on the portion of sales under \$800,000; the budget provides an initial investment of \$35.0 million in the HPF.

Pay for Success Social Impact Investments in Housing: The budget sets aside \$6.0 million in a restricted account to reimburse, if successful, expenses for a five-year pilot program to create permanent housing and provide support services for 125 homeless individuals.

Emergency Renter and Homeowner Assistance: To aide renters in FY2022, the budget allocates \$114 million of \$152 million in American Rescue Plan relief funds, as well as \$25.0 million of \$50.0 million total for homeowners harmed by the pandemic to help with mortgage payments and other expenses. The budget also includes \$34.0 million in LIHEAP federal aid to help cover energy utility costs for low-income Rhode Islanders.