

**Should we include this category as part of the Boston People's Budget Proposal?**

(Instruction: You should vote YES or NO on each category)

**VOTES**

Invest Housing YES: 72 NO: 0

Invest Immigration support YES: 65 No: 2

Invest Food Access YES: 59 No: 1

Invest Youth jobs YES: 57 NO: 2

Invest Health/mental health YES: 54 NO: 1

Invest Youth Programs YES: 50 NO: 1

Invest Elder support YES: 49 NO: 2

Invest Environment YES: 40 No: 3

DIVEST from Police YES: 55 NO: 1

**Should this category be prioritized as one of the first 3 category that we develop budget proposals around and organize for during the 2026 budget cycle?**

(Instruction: You can vote for 3 categories)

**VOTES**

Housing: 57

Food: 36

Immigration: 35

Youth jobs: 23

health/mental health: 16

Environment: 14

Youth programs: 11

Elder support: 9

<b>Mental health/public health: What problems is your community facing?</b>	<b>Mental health/public health: What support and programs would you like to see?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-mental health stigma</li> <li>-not enough awareness for people to be open about what they are facing</li> <li>-cultural backgrounds make it hard to ask for help or acknowledge the problem</li> <li>-many kids/youth struggle with mental health and commit suicide</li> <li>-not enough confidential youth services</li> <li>-no support for care takers</li> <li>-not enough support resources for all ages</li> <li>-easier to access wrap-around support</li> <li>-Department of Mental Health (DMH) sucks</li> <li>-disability justice</li> <li>-no family/youth activity centers or activities</li> <li>-non-existent/barely existent mental health programs</li> <li>+2 -people with mental health challenges aren't receiving the right care that they need and are becoming homeless or being put into shelters. They also don't receive good supportive housing and it's usually in bad areas</li> <li>-not having and holding confidential and safe mental health resource for youth</li> <li>-BPS students do not have the safe resources to build connections to and hold meaningful relationships with community members</li> <li>-people stay in abusive relationships because of immigration status and the cost of housing. Need relief from abusive relationships and housing situations</li> <li>-people not educated on mental health and substance abuse disorder</li> <li>-health should be more recognized and be taken seriously, especially mental health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-training and support for people in our communities to learn and support loved ones in crisis</li> <li>-training programs for families to understand and learn about and de-escalate mental health crisis</li> <li>-learning facilities that educate family members on how best to assist those with mental instabilities. Train people how to be a resource to those in need</li> <li>-giving youth members the opportunity to support and be there for other youth and young adults</li> <li>-help the community with programs to manage emotions, stress, depression, anxiety, etc.</li> <li>-more free spaces for emotional support and mental health support</li> <li>-teach youth de-escalation skills and mental health support skills and coping skills and strategies</li> <li>-more information and resources in many different communities and languages</li> <li>-mental health workshops for different communities like elders, immigrants, mothers, etc.</li> <li>-nutritionists with cultural competence</li> <li>-holistic care fully covered by insurance</li> <li>-multiple family structures supported</li> <li>-doctors on the grassroots level at clinics</li> <li>-fund community-owned local health clinics. City can help by giving land and helping with zoning and grants for development</li> <li>-responding officers MUST speak languages of whomever is being stopped</li> <li>+1 -emergency response team for mental health. Not police!</li> <li>-redefine community safety!</li> <li>-expand existing services and substance abuse centers to more neighborhoods – how much demand is there fro the substance use outpatient center? Do people get turned away due to capacity? Do people need insurance?</li> </ul>

Increase access outreach. Same for the womens and mens emergency centers

- free ambulance!
- free dental care
- more staff for mental health
- door to door clinics
- free youth gym or free gym memberships for youth
- bluebikes free for high school students or bike giveaways
- free BlueBikes based on income
- free pilates
- free bowling
- free driving lessons
- free art, culture and music lessons
- free summer programming
- jobs for youth to work with smaller kids
- therapists that youth can access
- more free therapists in BPS
- we should stop the gun violence and have something the youth can do after school like activities like sports, community service, art, community centers, etc.
- free afterschool cultural classes, art and music
- more facilities for female/male hospitalized separately instead of the same floor
- hospitals with no religious backgrounds

-a better bridge between clinics and those struggling with mental health issues

- therapists that understand the ongoing effects of generational trauma such as ethnic cleansing, colonizations, and redlining

+1 -programs and services for immigrant and refugee families specifically

- de-stigmatize mental health!
- detox programs for youth
- support the healing center of East Boston
- mental health support as part of prenatal and postpartum care
- establish a mental health support group specifically for teachers

<b>Elder Supports: What are the problems?</b>	<b>Elder supports: What are the solutions?</b>
<p>(this flip chart actually didn't have this column so we didn't get any comments here)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-snow removal for elders</li> <li>-hire people to clean their sidewalks when it shows or when there is rain</li> <li>-help for home projects from people they can trust</li>   <li>-more publicly funded senior centers and spaces/activities</li> <li>-yoga, dance and games and other entertainment for elderly</li> <li>-free daycare needed in subsidized housing communities</li>   <li>-programs to match elders with people who will listen to them</li> <li>-intergenerational social spaces and exchanges</li> <li>-intergenerational programs that combine youth jobs with desire for senior social interactions</li> <li>-programs for people to visit seniors at home and listen to them</li> <li>-more check-ins and care programs for elders</li> <li>-more activities for elderly in East Boston.</li> <li>Lacking transportation to other parts of the city</li> <li>-affordable, quality, elder care. Socialize elder care as valuable!</li> <li>-grants for community orgs to do elder checkins, activities and services</li> <li>-senior art studios on land under collective ownership</li>   <li>-transportation to senior centers via a shuttle bus</li>   <li>-mental health and food supports for seniors</li> <li>-food and housing for seniors who can't support themselves</li> <li>-senior housing cooperative</li> <li>+5-food delivery for homebound seniors</li> <li>-medical insurance for seniors</li> <li>-a hotline elders can call when developers are harrassing them to sell their homes</li>   <li>+1-elders who provide childcare for family</li> </ul>

	<p>members should get paid minimum wage instead of \$10/day</p> <p>-more clarity around how the age strong budget is being spent and how people access the programs. Transparency helps those impacted have meaningful input</p>
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<p><b>Transportation</b>  <b>What problems are you/your community facing?</b></p>	<p><b>Transportation</b>  <b>What programs and services would you like to see?</b></p>
<p>-late or canceled buses,. Unreliable and we are late to school and work          -buses are always full no matter how long you wait, especially the 23!!!          -bus pass too expensive          +2 -train delays and closures. Unreliable and we are late to school and work          -transportation is unreliable. Used to having to catch a bus or train 2 hours in advance          -wait times are too long for the train          -train fare too expensive          -make them affordable for people to get to work          -more accessible buses in East Boston          -crowded trains          -public transit not safe for women and kids          -criminalizing people who don't pay the fare</p>	<p>-more parking spaces          -free bus fare          -free buses on weekends          +1 -free transportation for youth and elders          -free buses and trains          -more reduced fare programs          -more frequent bus service to underserved areas          -community + MassDOT + MBTA in the room at the beginning of any planning process          -do maintenance on weekends</p>

<p><b>Monthly expense:</b>  <b>What problems are you/your community facing?</b></p>	<p><b>Monthly expenses:</b>  <b>What services or programs would you like to see?</b></p>
<p>-more affordable childcare options          -lots of violence in community          -no good paying jobs</p>	<p>-raise the minimum wage          -subsidize programs for electric and gas bills          -energy efficiency in our homes that doesn't raise the utility bills          -youth centers to stop the violence. More male leaders for our young men</p>

<b>Immigration: What problems are you/your community facing?</b>	<b>Immigration: What support/programs would you like to see?</b>
<p>-Vietnamese community members in Dorchester are being taken away right in front of their own homes by ICE</p> <p>-all the people have to go to their jobs and also are fearful to just get some food</p> <p>+1 -ICE raids</p> <p>-ICE agents trying to put fear in kids/adults and ruining families</p> <p>-unemployment for immigrants</p> <p>-lack of affordable health care and affordable housing options</p> <p>-public and government need to be more aware that people leave their country afraid for their lives or family's lives</p> <p>-lack of immigration attorneys</p> <p>-teaching kids that immigrations are not opportunities but instead "aliens". America used to embrace diversity but not anymore</p> <p>-not enough resources for immigration for community members with limited income / no hay suficiente fondos para migracion para las personas de la comunidad de bajos recursos</p> <p>-andan traumatado a los jovenes. Ellos son el futuro. Basta de meterlos miedo - fuera ICE!</p>	<p>-free lawyers / abogados gratis</p> <p>-legal fund for immigrant families + +</p> <p>-big need for funds to pay for immigration attorneys - for political asylum, family protection, for people in detention and more. At the city's PB process we proposed: (1) fund managed by immigrant community groups (2) pay attorneys who agree to take cases and charge more affordable rate than their peers</p> <p>-need more protections for immigrants because they also contribute to our society and help to build this country</p> <p>-a more developed housing program to help new/struggling immigrant families</p> <p>-think more about seniors and single mothers./ Pensamos mas en los adultos mayores y madres solteras etc.</p> <p>-affordable health care initiatives</p> <p>-educators need support to implement immigration education into their curriculum. Especially with the students who are being affected</p> <p>-tener reuniones sobre los derechos que tienen todos los inmigrantes y como ellos se pueden proteger/ have meetings about rights that all immigrants have and how they can protect themselves</p> <p>-more programs and trainings like how people can protect themselves</p>
<p>Notes from breakout</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a comms/narrative campaign with positive messaging about immigrants in Boston, elevating contributions, humanity, boston spirit. Played in all media, campaign and adds</li> <li>- Childcare stipends or vouchers for immigrant families, especially the ones where a</li> </ul>	

family member has been detained. Helps to have childcare so the other adult has time to support family in detention. Maybe stipend to pay family members too and not just professional daycares

- free or low cost immigration lawyers that partner with non-profits to support cases of people coming to those orgs. Lawyers can be subsidized by the city if they are private firm lawyers
- Add \$ to BIJAN
- MOIA funding rapid response trainings, ice watch, etc. for base building orgs since they are already trusted by community, having people be trained by them is better than by the city
- Policy support / introduce - that makes public spaces safe spaces. Like the libraries, schools , BCYFs, and other public buildings so that staff are trained to safeguard families or individuals seeking refuge from ICE
- Expand access and support for mental health services for families facing separation of with anxiety due to immigration enforcement. Subsidized therapy ptsd, anxiety, and depression. Many families suffering from anxiety and children from trauma of family separation
- Wellness and mental health resources in community
- Education and mandatory training for BPD - racial profiling, Fines for the individual officer and the union for incidents of racial profiling and for “gray area” supporting and iding ice
- Trainings and education in schools and workshops to train teachers with resources to support students, also to talk about immigration and combat the rhetoric of bad immigration

<b>Environment and green space: What problems are you/your community facing?</b>	<b>Environment and green space: What support/programs/solutions would you like to see?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-not enough focus on parks or environmental justice</li> <li>-traffic near white stadium</li> <li>-tree cutting on private property</li> <li>-solar and retrofit challenges</li> <li>-school facility quality</li> <li>-not enough green spaces</li> <li>-gas leaf blowers cause air and noise pollution</li> <li>-community spaces plagued with litter. Unsafe conditions for children</li> <li>-proposed Eversource substation in Dorchester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-community CDC</li> <li>-adult parks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what are adult parks?</li> </ul> </li> <li>-i would like to see more green spaces that can attract teens to be more willing to sit and enjoy the space provided for them safely</li> <li>-public transit directly to green spaces</li> <li>-free-pick community gardens and food forests with volunteers who tend to them</li> </ul>

<b>Housing: What problems are you/your community facing?</b>	<b>Housing: What solutions/programs/services do you want to see?</b>
<p>- \$54 million budget not enough! Housing costs are so high</p> <p>- affordability that supports existing community and does not rip it apart</p> <p>- a lot of homelessness</p> <p>- affordability AFTER taxes, not before</p> <p>- housing and childcare are deeply connected. I'd love to see pregnant people, new families and children and elders be housed REGARDLESS of status/money!</p> <p>- people are like flowers; we need space, shelter and a nourishing environment in which to grow and thrive to beautify and create landscapes for our communities</p> <p>- disillusionment around police violence, food insecurity, homelessness, etc</p> <p>- people getting turned away from getting support based on strict criteria</p> <p>+ 1-rents increasing</p> <p>- owning a home is very difficult without support from community</p> <p>- not many affordable housing</p> <p>- more affordable housing for poor and elderly people</p> <p>- lots of people can't afford to rent because they don't have jobs and there is actually no affordable housing in MA</p> <p>- estamos enfrentando el alto costo de la renta en la comunidad/ high costs of rent in the community</p> <p>- afraid of roof for children</p> <p>- afraid of homelessness</p> <p>- en lo personal me preocupa la vivienda ya que cada año tenemos que enfrentar con mi familia un aumento de la renta. Queremos una vivienda justa y asequible donde podamos vivir sin pensar en mucho incremento a la renta. / personally I worry a lot about the rent increases my family receives every year. We want a just, affordable housing where we can live without worrying about rent increases</p> <p>- a mi me preocupa la vivienda ya que a cada año nos suben la renta / I'm worried about my housing since I get yearly rent increase</p> <p>- me preocupa mucha la vivienda porque esta</p>	<p>- \$\$ for emergency housing for people losing jobs/income that covers 3 months rent</p> <p>- any policy or funding should be steered to very low income people and be permanently affordable if housing is developed</p> <p>- \$50M + for Boston's AOP program. This helps tenants fighting eviction get a nonprofit to purchase their building</p> <p>- millions more for Boston's own city housing vouchers (given especially that S8 may soon be defunded by federal government)</p> <p>- programs to get resources to homeless people</p> <p>- redefine affordability in Boston's different communities.</p> <p>- Add free childcare centers in all new buildings.</p> <p>- Affordable child care, youth centers and higher minimum wage</p> <p>- Rehab current housing in Boston</p> <p>- regular las rentas! Rent control!</p> <p>- more regulation for landlords who don't show up to fix the house but are on time/available when you fall behind on rent</p> <p>- more \$ to community groups (eg, CLVU, DSNI and NECP) that do housing stuff and especially to community land trusts</p> <p>- more grant funding with minimal restrictions for community organizations already doing the work to keep people in their homes</p> <p>- un programa de apoyo para el control de renta es decir tarifa</p> <p>- can you pay rent!!! How much is rent</p> <p>- more public housing, social housing and co-housing living in community</p> <p>- rent to own options</p> <p>- find ways for renters to earn ownership through lease to own or some type of investment trust preferable REIT</p> <p>- permanently affordable home ownership</p> <p>- a program to help educate people about housing would be great and also some of these landlords don't have what it takes</p> <p>- more affordable housing</p> <p>- rental has to average 60% AMI</p> <p>- create a report card for corporate landlords</p>

<p>incrementando demasiado y mucha discriminacion a la hora de rentar/i'm very worried about housing because it is increasing too much and there is a lot of discrimination in renting</p>	<p>so people can see easily who is a bad landlord          -stop raising the rents. We can't have 5 jobs to pay rent with minimum wage!/ ya paran de subir la renta, ya no podemos tender 5 trabajos para pagar renta menos con el salario minimo</p>
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<b>Food: problems</b>	<b>Food: solutions</b>
<p>-resources are not accessible: long lines, too hard to get to, will they run out? Will they have the food i need? Do i have to find them on the internet? Hard for people who don't speak english and have mobility challenges          -affordable food helps with lowering monthly bills          -me preocupa el tema de la comida ya que dia a dia los productos se estan incrementando de precio / i worry about food because the prices of products are increasing daily          -food insecurity, especially in the the immigrant community          -not enough money for groceries for many families          -finding the food i need          -me preocupa el incremento de la comida y también que muchas personas no tienen para comer, por falta de empleo / the increased price of food worries me because a lot of people don't have enough to eat</p>	<p>-more money to mutual aid groups to maintain community fridges stocked          -give money to food pantries and food justice orgs to increase structures for food security. They know what they need and often these places are just given the same few foods.          +1 -respect folx self determination and lived experience! Give people \$\$ and they'll get what they need to survive. Food is cultural. People deserve to choose food for their specific needs          -more government-run food pantries and community fridges          ayudar a los centros comunitarios que brinden alimentos/help community centers disperse food          -invest in mutual aid networks and urban farms          +1-money for food pantries. So many people need to eat and some food pantries are closing down          -create community markets          -city funded food access programs for kids and families          -coupons for people to shop at supermarkets          -increase coupons          -more HIP and more education about HIP          -bring resources to the community more          -expand participating stores in the double up food bucks program          -food stamps for all who need them            -food is about connection. Think about growing food together and taking ownership of the land. Establish a greater connection to land/gratitude/prayer/composting/feeling nourished by land and reciprocating that</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-more community farming</li> <li>-brindar alimentación consciente y saludable / making healthy food together in community</li> <li>+1 -free-pick community gardens and food forests with volunteers who tend to them</li> <li>+1 -public kitchens. What if we had kitchens that were public like libraries</li> <li>-places to get hot meals</li>   <li>-language justice + food justice and sovereignty!</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Youth jobs</b></p> <p>(this was not a top challenge so we didn't have it in the first dream time framed as a problem/solution. It was a little hard to translate the flip chart, see below, but I tried to group it into challenges on the left and solutions on the right)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-paperwork, sign up, lots of questions and outdated questions</li> <li>-application process - example, way online system has criteria jobs for non-english jobs (other way around tbh) <i>[people shared it was challenging to get a job if you don't speak a second language in addition to English, and shared it was challenging to get a job if you didn't speak English]</i></li> <li>+1 -too many people applying</li> <li>-not enough funding for success link; says limit of how many people</li> <li><u>- places list that they're hiring but don't reach out</u></li>   <li>-no promotion/publication of youth jobs</li> <li>-jobs didn't match summer hours; lack of flexibility</li> <li>-hard for younger teens to get jobs (14yolds)</li>   <li>-lack of hours; 10 hrs is not enough hours. Food stamps require 20 hrs/week</li>   <li>-jobs don't pay enough. People have to work multiple jobs, labor laws don't let youth have enough hours</li> <li>-[not sure if this was a problem or solution] For example, food service jobs where youth are → school and families</li> <li>-not enough resources day-to-day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-register to vote during march</li>   <li>-more money for youth jobs. Community orgs, not City or big companies</li> <li>- Take \$ from police</li>   <li>+2 -need whole year program. <i>[Why? The problem is: having a gap of] 4 months, don't have anything to do, get in trouble. Need consistency when paying for family</i></li>   <li>-funding for community centers that want to work with youth</li>   <li>- wages: \$20-30/hr</li>   <li><u>- external check based on needs (example: soap), stipend for necessities, more resources for needs</u></li>   <li><u>- jobs that match interests and passions</u></li>   <li>-pay \$20-27/hr</li>   <li>-24/7 community center</li>   <li>-tax credits for jobs in field of choice/variety – medicine, law, paid internships</li>   <li>-connect to union jobs</li> </ul>

<p>-need benefits, pensions</p> <p>-youth need housing. (House may not be safe)</p> <p>- 1/3 Black, Latino men go to jail</p> <p>-getting to Boston at 4 - hard to meet job, lots of responsibilities</p> <p>+1 -recruitment for wrong jobs - police + military violence</p> <p>+1 -not enough jobs connected to getting into medicine, variety of things we want to do</p> <p>-unions not friendly - POC, women</p> <p><u>+1 - youth use \$ to help family (sister's clothing, shoes)</u></p>	<p><u>- have funding so we can be fed/lunch</u></p> <p><u>- funding for extra things, trips, staying over,etc</u></p> <p><u>- money for youth jobs that help with long term not just as necessity (trips, college, ABCD workshops on college and budgeting)</u></p> <p>Youth can live together ex in a 3 bedroom with guidance counselor, social worker.</p> <p>-housing for youth</p> <p>-safe space esp. for young men of color</p> <p>-training for adults working w/ young people</p>
<p>Additional thoughts:</p> <p>-coordinator [at my program is] transparent about payments</p> <p>-there are youth who are returning citizens and veterans</p> <p>-youth who are going to college</p>	

- REGISTER TO VOTE DURING MARCH

⊖ TOO MANY PEOPLE APPLYING  
 ⊖ NOT ENOUGH RESOURCES DAY-TO-DAY

- YOUTH USE \$\$ TO HELP FAMILY ✓

⊖ GET TO BOSTON AT 4 - HARD TO MEET JOBS, <sup>sisters' clothing, shoes</sup>

lots of RESPONSIBILITIES - need BENEFITS, PENSIONS

⊖ NOT ENOUGH JOBS - go into MEDICINE, VARIETY OF THINGS WE WANT TO DO. <sup>unions NOT FRIENDLY - POL. women</sup>

- JOBS DON'T PAY ENOUGH - MULTIPLE JOBS - LABOR LAWS - not enough HRS

- example: FOOD SERVICE JOBS WHERE YOUTH → SCHOOL → FAMILIES

- youth need HOUSING → youth can live together ex. in 3-BR

⊖ RETURNING CITIZENS + VETERANS ↓ HOUSE MAY NOT BE SAFE

- going to COLLEGE

safe space esp. young men <sup>need to make 1/3 black latino men → JAIL</sup>

OF COLOR <sup>you pay for the work</sup>

24/7 COMMUNITY CENTER

\$20-27/HR

TAX CREDIT FOR JOBS IN FIELD OF CHOICE/YOUTH

CONNECT TO UNION JOBS

TRAINING FOR ADULTS WORKING w/ YOUNG PEOPLE

GUIDANCE COUNSEL, SOCIAL WORKERS

COMMUNITY JOBS <sup>not city, big companies</sup>

TAKE \$ FROM POLICE

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS THAT WANT TO WORK w/ YOUTH

Medicine Law PAID INTERESTERES

PAPER WORK, signing up, LOTS OF QUESTIONS

OUTDATED QUESTIONS

JOBS DIDN'T MATCH SUMMER HOURS, LACK OF FLEXIBILITY

HARD FOR YOUNGER TEENS TO GET JOBS (14 YEARS)

RECRUITMENT FOR WRONG JOBS - POLICE + MILITARY ✓

WHOLE YEAR PROGRAM - 4 MONTHS - DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO, GET IN TROUBLE ✓

paying for FAMILY

PLACES LIST THAT THEY'RE HIRING BUT DON'T REACH OUT

LACK OF HOURS - 10 HRS NOT ENOUGH

↳ Food stamps requires 20 HRS/WK

APPLICATION PROCESS - example, way online system has criteria

JOBS FOR non-english JOBS (other way or auto tax)

NO PUBLICATION/AWARENESS OF YOUTH JOBS

HAVE FUNDING, SO WE CAN BE FED/LUNCH

SUCCESS LINK - SAYS LIMIT OF HOW MANY PEOPLE, NOT ENOUGH FUNDING

FUNDING FOR EXTRA THINGS - TRIPS, STAYING OVER

COORDINATOR - TRANSPARENT ABOUT PAYMENTS

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WAGES <sup>optional check book on needs</sup> \$20-30/HR <sup>SOUP SHIPMENT FOR NECESSITIES</sup>

more resources for needs

a LOT OF MONEY → SCHOOLS (1/2 TRIP DAY)

not as UNFUNDED + STUPID RACE

⊖ FOR YOUTH JOBS NOT JUST AS NECESSITY (TRIPS, COLLEGE)

long-term

college budgeting

Jobs → interests + PASSIONS