



One Year of the Healey-Driscoll Administration

Partnering With the Black Community to Advance Equity and Opportunities

Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll recognize the tremendous contributions of the Black Community in Massachusetts. Since day one, the Healey-Driscoll administration worked to ensure this community was represented in the State House by hiring members of the Black community in leadership positions. Consequently, Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll now have the most diverse cabinet in the history of the Commonwealth. The administration also invested in vital policies to create more opportunities. It announced the creation of The Black Empowerment Council during the first eight weeks in office, fulfilling promises and committing to intentional equity.

Improving equity across the Healey-Driscoll office and cabinet in efforts to contribute towards the creating of meaningful opportunities to the Black Community:

- Created the Governor's Advisory Council on Black Empowerment.
- Initiated an equity assessment across the entire administration.
- Installed well-known art pieces by Black artists to embrace inclusivity and representation in the State House.
- Appointed the most diverse cabinet in the history of Massachusetts.
- Announced joint guidance after the Supreme's court decision to protect Massachusetts's higher education and k-12 institutions in their work to further equal access and representation.
- Governor Healey is the first governor in recent history to pardon the most individuals in recent history during first year in office. A total of 11 pardons were granted because justice can't wait.
- The Administration modernized clemency guidelines for fairness and equity by also taking into consideration the unique circumstances of each individual and the role of systematic biases

Ensuring equitable education and working towards economic development and prosperity of the Black Community in Massachusetts:



- Created MassReconnect, a no-cost community college for Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older and strengthened college and career pathways into good-paying jobs.
- Signed no-cost school meals for all K-12 students in the 2024 budget, – meaning parents no longer have to pay for school breakfast or lunch. a
- Implemented a historic \$62 million financial aid expansion for tuition, fees, books, and supply costs to approximately 25,000 students attending the state’s public community colleges, state universities, and the University of Massachusetts, reducing out-of-pocket expenses for middle-income students by up to half.
- Launched a new nursing community college financial aid scholarship, announcing that for the first time, the funds are sufficient to cover 100% of currently enrolled community college nursing students for the year.
- Expanded the MassNextGen program, which initially focused on supporting women entrepreneurs in the life sciences, to now include people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, individuals with disabilities, veterans and others.
- Introduced the Housing bond Bill, and partnered with the Black and Latino Caucus when compiling the Affordable Homes Act and included several of their priorities including:
 - **\$50M** set aside for **MassDreams** to create first-time homebuyer opportunities for households in Disproportionately Impacted Communities.
 - The largest ever investment in the Commonwealth’s public housing system: **\$1.6B.**