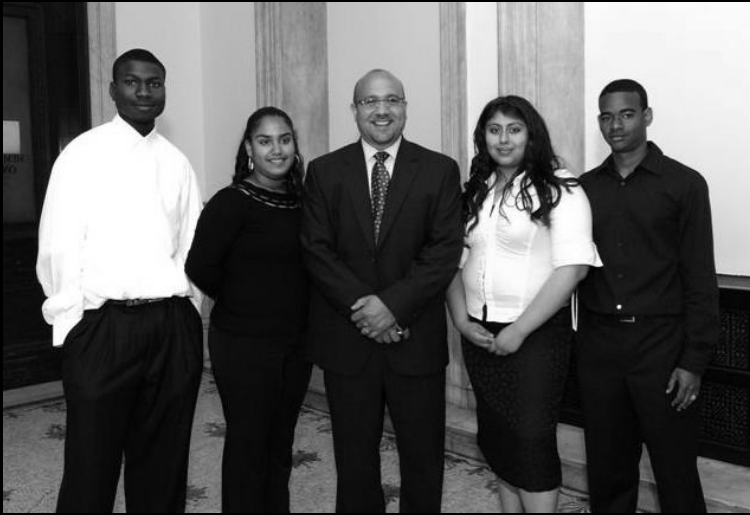


The Fiscal Year 2007 Budget



The State House is an incredible place to learn more about state government and the impact on our communities. Over the last term more than two dozen high school & college students have interned in my office.

This past spring, the legislature passed its Fiscal Year 2007 budget. Among the chief priorities of the legislature for this budget cycle was to help ease the property tax burdens of residents and assist our cities and towns in funding important services. Nearly \$920 million in lottery funding was directed to local governments, and total non-education local aid reached \$1.37 billion, representing the highest amount of local aid ever distributed to the 351 cities and towns throughout Massachusetts.

As part of the budget process, I sponsored several amendments which addressed issues of housing, education, health care, and workforce development, and I am extremely pleased that these items were written into the final budget.

> See column to the right

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OFFICE HOURS ARE HELD EVERY TUESDAY FROM 7:30 - 9:30 A.M. CHECK LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR LOCATIONS.

Latino After School Initiative

\$250,000 in funding for the *Latino After School Initiative* which provides homework assistance, MCAS preparation, and other educational activities for more than 200 youth in and around Boston, including Sociedad Latina in Mission Hill and the Hyde Square Task Force in Jamaica Plain.

Health Care Training Institute

\$100,000 for the *Boston Health Care and Research Training Institute* where community-based organizations provide training for low-income residents interested in joining the health care industry. Many in our community have benefited from this excellent initiative.

Youth Summer Jobs

An additional \$700,000 in funding for youth summer jobs in Boston and across Massachusetts.

Affordable Homeownership

An additional \$2.5 million for the *Soft Second Loan Program* to assist first-time low-income homebuyers and a new \$1 million appropriation through the *Affordable Housing Trust Fund* to increase affordable homeownership opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.



My office recently organized a site visit to the Jamaica Way and Arborway with the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and local residents to address parkway safety concerns.