



ECONOMIC MOBILITY PATHWAYS

FY26 Executive Summary

A Message from EMPATH President & CEO Kim Janey

For families facing financial hardship, a struggling economy, rising costs and cuts to critical programs and services have made the path forward more difficult. At EMPATH, we are meeting this moment by standing alongside our participants, strengthening direct services, and helping ensure they have the resources, skills and opportunities to build more secure futures.

And this year, we had much to celebrate. More than 400 leaders, practitioners and advocates from across the country came together for EMPATH's 2026 Disrupting Poverty Conference to share ideas, build connections and advance solutions. We celebrated a record-setting gala, made possible by the generosity of our supporters and community. And we proudly celebrated 47 individuals who graduated from our AMP Up and CFO programs and 50 who completed Newton Thrive—people who set ambitious goals, did the hard work and took important steps toward greater economic mobility.

These accomplishments belong first and foremost to our participants. They are the heart of EMPATH and the reason we remain committed to opening doors and disrupting poverty—together.



"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is that we now have the techniques and the resources to get rid of poverty. The real question is whether we have the will."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.



FY26 BY THE NUMBERS

1,322 people enrolled in EMPATH Programs

- **768 adults (89% women)**
- **554 children**

Among shelter and long-term program participants:

- **80%** used a monthly budget at exit, up from **24%** at entry.
- **71%** had savings at exit, up from **32%** at entry; and the average amount in savings **quadrupled**.
- Average well-being ratings from entry to exit improved from "struggling" to "thriving."

Participants worked on **3,450 goals** across the five pillars of the Economic Mobility Bridge® and achieved **73%** of them.

FY26 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Housing & Shelter Programs

We serve hundreds of families annually in emergency shelters and apartments across Greater Boston. At every step, participants work 1:1 with their EMPATH Mobility Mentors®, translating their hopes and dreams into action.

269 families received support in our shelter programs (Hastings, STEPS, Horizons, Hosmer).

- **90%** of the households who exited our shelter programs exited to permanent housing.
- **99%** of participants who completed our Stabilization program maintained permanent housing.
- **87%** of shelter participants had a bank account at exit, up from **60%** at entry.



EOHLC Secretary Juana Matias gets to know a young participant at EMPATH's Horizons site.

Advocacy Wins

Disrupting the cycle of poverty requires more than direct services. EMPATH brings the voices of families experiencing poverty to the halls of power, and this year, we advanced **10 legislative priorities**.

As a result, the FY27 MA state budget reflects meaningful investments in housing stability, job opportunity, workforce development, and women's advancement.

Looking ahead to 2027, advocates, coalition partners, participants, and practitioners will gather on Capitol Hill **May 4-5 for EMPATH's biennial DC Action Summit**.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/46FpM4t>

Global Impact

EMPATH hosted our 2026 Disrupting Poverty Conference, drawing **more than 400** practitioners, policymakers, and leaders, for a week of engagement, education, and learning new strategies for disrupting poverty.



Collaboration in action at the 2026 Disrupting Poverty Conference.

Through EMPATH's Economic Mobility Exchange™, our global learning network, we helped improve the lives of participants at more than **1,250 organizations** in **32 states**, and **10 international countries**.

Long-Term Programs

Close to 100 people in our Long-Term Economic Mobility programs, AMP-Up, Career Family Opportunity (CFO) and Newton Thrive, used Mobility Mentoring® to strategize, set and achieve economic mobility goals, and create a better future for themselves and their families.

AMP Up, CFO, and Newton Thrive program participants increased their employment rate from **55%** at start of program to **75%** at end.

During the programs:

- **73%** participated in education and training.
- Average annual earned income increased by **80%**.
- **26** people participated in homebuyer education classes and **4 people** became homeowners

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