12/9/11

**HomeBASE**

**Household Assistance Information**

1. Maximum amount of assistance per year – is **$4,000**. Payments are made on behalf of the family to a 3rd party (i.e. landlord, furniture store, etc.) not directly to the family. Families cannot apply for additional assistance until 12 months after the beginning of Household Assistance, and also are not eligible to be placed into a shelter if they become homeless during this year of assistance.
2. Types of Assistance - includes the following that cannot in total exceed $4,000/yr:

* 1st month’s rent and security deposit
* Rent arrearage and/or utility arrearage
* Moving expenses to another state (bus or airline tickets) or to another location in Mass.
* Furnishings
* Other expenses to help establish or maintain housing including child care, job training, medical, etc.

1. Co-housing – because of the limited $4,000/yr maximum many families are using this assistance to co-house or live with another adult or family who has income and can share housing costs (i.e. rent, utilities, etc.). The landlord, HomeBASE client, and the other person must sign an agreement and a lease for this arrangement, and the rental unit must be of sufficient size to meet state codes.
2. Stabilization Plan Compliance – all families will have an assigned case manager who will help them create a housing stabilization plan that must be followed to remain eligible for this assistance. The plan must include complying with all lease and program requirements, increasing their employment and/or income; pursuing education and training programs, and securing primary health providers and educational stability for their children. The goal of the HomeBASE program is to increase a family’s economic self-sufficiency and long-term housing stability.