**FY14 HOMEBASE, MOTEL, RAFT MRVP UPDATES:**

**Understanding what is available for families whose HomeBASE is expiring**:

 **HomeBASE for families ending HB Rental Assistance**

* If a family is able to break their lease before it expires, they can access the remaining amount of the their HB subsidy to be used to relocate
* HomeBASE families can also access Household Assistance ($4,000) to help them maintain their current housing or establish a new tenancies or shared housing arrangement.  This can also be combined with any re-purposed Rental Assistance.  Families do not need to go through the eviction process to access the Household Assistance

**RAFT**

* RAFT will also be available to families **if** additional resources are needed after Household Assistance.  The cap is also $4,000, so families may be able to access up to $8,000 (plus any repurposed RA).  RAFT will not be available until later in the fall as different regulations are needed.  Household Assistance will operate with waivers and the budget language and current guidelines permit the use of the funds in this way.

**MRVPs**

* 500 MRVP vouchers will be made available to HomeBASE families with a disabled household member (must be verified).  All families should receive a letter directly from DHCD in the upcoming weeks.  Eligible families will be entered into a statewide lottery to be administered at DHCD.  The lottery will be NOT have any geographic or other considerations.
* The cash funding should be able to prevent a family’s homelessness for a period of 12 months- therefore should be used in cases where there will be an offer of permanent housing, an increase in income, a shared living arrangement, etc.  Families may not qualify otherwise
* Some tenancies will not be able to be preserved with the resources available and shared/alternative housing is clearly not an option for many of the 5,300 families.  Those families will be able to enter shelter. As you know, the stabilization workers at the RAAs are charged with gathering the paperwork to submit to central so that families do not have to go to the local offices.  Eligibility should be determined within 72 hours, as long as the paperwork is complete .

**Public Housing Priority Status**

* HomeBASE families shall retain their priority status for state funded public housing.  DHCD does not have authority over federally funded programs, most of which are frozen.

**Resources for Families in Shelter**

* the 32 week time clock for the $4,000 has been lifted and is now available to families in shelter/motels (and the front door) at any time
* 300 MRVP’s will be available to the 300 longest term stayers in the system.  There will be extra stabilization funding for to support those families transition.

**Budget and Contract Issues**

The motel line item was underfunded (covering less than 2 months) so DHCD’s motel funds will be depleted before the end of the month.  They have filed for a supplemental budget , asking that the transferability language gets restored (and the salary reserve).

Adapted from Libby Hayes, Home for Families 8/12/13 update