



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Please support the strengthening of the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT, line item 7004-9316) **by increasing the overall funding to \$18.5 million for FY'17 and expanding eligibility to allow access to households of all sizes and configurations, beyond just families with children under the age of 21.**

What is RAFT?

RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) is designed to allow eligible applicant's to receive a maximum of \$4000 of flexible funds to assist with the moving cost and/or preventative measures to reduce the chance homelessness, such as: rent, mortgage or utility arrears, first and last month's rent, utility startup costs, other household related expenses, and/or employment-related transportation costs. RAFT was established to provide short-term financial assistance for families whose income is at or below 30 percent of AMI, and a maximum of 50 percent for families between 30-50 percent AMI. It is a program of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that is administered by 10 regional agencies across the Commonwealth.

The Need for Action

Prevention resources need to be targeted to households earlier in their crisis. There is desperate need for increased funding for low-income households who are at-risk or already experiencing homelessness. In order to serve the broader base of eligible households there needs to be an increase in overall funding for RAFT in FY 2017.



- RAFT helps families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness and needing shelter to remain housed and to end their housing instability.
- RAFT currently provides assistance of up to \$4,000 in a 12-month period to help families pay security deposits, first and last month's rent, moving expenses, rent, utility and mortgage arrears, and other housing-related expenses.
- With \$18.5 million, an estimated 6,346 households would be able to receive immediate resources to prevent homelessness, based on the average FY'15 RAFT expenditure of \$2,915/family (\$2,415 in benefits + \$500 in administrative fees).

Please help us strengthen the RAFT program, and to turn the tide of homelessness for families with children, unaccompanied youth, elders, people with disabilities, and other households in the Commonwealth.

**Join with us to work to expand the RAFT homelessness prevention program,
so everyone has a place to call home!**

For more information, please contact:

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