



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home.

Expand the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program in Fiscal Year 2017: Increase eligibility and funding to help more low-income households avoid or exit homelessness

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSERS

Action for Boston Community Development Action Inc.
AIDS Action Committee
Alliance of Cambridge Tenants
Arise for Social Justice
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)
Boston Center for Independent Living
Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee
Boston Homeless Union, Local 1
Brandeis University Waltham Group, Hunger and Homelessness Division
Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc.
Cardinal Medeiros Center
Centerboard
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City Mission Boston
Community Action Agency of Somerville
Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.
Community Health and Advocacy Subcommittee of the Student Leadership Committee at Harvard Medical School's Center for Primary Care
Cross Street Shelter
Crossroads Family Shelter
Family Promise
Father Bill's & MainSpring
First Church Shelter
Friends of the Homeless North Weymouth
Habitat for Humanity North Shore
HAP, Inc.
Housing Families Inc.
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center
Justice Resource Institute
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Life Bridge
Lowell Transitional Living Center
Lynn Economic Opportunity
Lynn Housing Authority
Lynn Shelter Association
Mass Home Care
Massachusetts Association for Community Action
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
Mission & Justice Ministry, Park Avenue Congregational Church United Church of Christ
My Brothers Table
North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP)
North Shore Voices Ending Homelessness
Pine Street Inn
Rape Crisis Center
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
River House
Rosie's Place
Samaritans Steps
Sojourner House
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
South Coast Regional Network to End Homelessness
South Middlesex Opportunity Council
Springwell
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
The Psychology Center Inc.-- Daybreak Shelter
Tri Community Coalition to End Homelessness
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness

The Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT, Line Item 7004-9316) is designed to allow eligible applicants to receive a maximum of \$4,000 in flexible funds to assist with moving costs and/or preventative measures to reduce the chance of 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 to families with incomes at or below 50 percent of AMI, with at least 50% of the funds dedicated to families with incomes below 30% of area median income (AMI). RAFT is a program of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that is administered by 10 regional agencies across the Commonwealth.

For FY 2017, the Coalition and partners are asking the Legislature to expand the RAFT definition of family to cover households of all sizes and configurations so as to allow unaccompanied adults and those without children in the household to also access homelessness prevention resources. We also are asking for an increase in overall funding to \$18.5 million, up from the FY'16 funding level of \$12.5 million.

- 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.



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 Tina Giarla at tina@mahomeless.org
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901
www.mahomeless.org