

RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION (RAFT)

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) is a state-funded program that allows families to stay housed or move into their next home during periods of housing instability and crisis.

Who is eligible?

- The household income must be at or below 50 percent of area median income (AMI).
- The family must be composed of two or more people living together, one of whom is a dependent child under the age of 21. A pregnant mother qualifies if she is the head of household.

How can RAFT funds be used?

Eligible households can receive up to \$4,000 in a 12-month period. Funds can be used for:

- Rental or mortgage arrearages.
- Short-term rental stipend.
- Security deposits.
- First and last month's rent.
- Utility arrearages.
- Furniture.
- Employment-related transportation costs.

There are restrictions on RAFT rental assistance for families residing in subsidized housing or who have a rental voucher.

RAFT by the numbers (FY15)

- **1,001** families received RAFT assistance.
- Average benefit received: **\$2,770**.
- Total funds distributed in FY15: **\$2.7 million**.
- Only **15** out of 3,000 families received RAFT funding in FY13, FY14, and FY15.

Documentation requirements

The family must provide documentation/proof that they are currently experiencing a housing crisis. Examples include:

Crisis	Documentation
Eviction	Court summons.
Foreclosure	Notice from mortgage lender stating intent to foreclose.
Current home doesn't meet Health & Safety Standards	Documentation from Board of Health that unit has failed inspection or condemnation order for the unit.
Severe over-crowding	Notice from Board of Health verifying living situation is a state health code violation.
Asked to leave friend/family member's home	Letter from property owner or primary tenant stating family is being asked to leave within 30 days.
Violence or abuse	Documentation of domestic violence or unsafe housing

To apply for RAFT, contact

MBHP Housing Consumer Education Center
617.425.6700 | ResourceLine@mbhp.org

For more information, contact

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Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) is a leading nonprofit dedicated to connecting the residents of Greater Boston with safe, decent homes they can afford. MBHP empowers families and individuals to move along the continuum from homelessness to housing stability. Serving more than 20,000 households annually, we work seamlessly to bridge the gaps among government, nonprofits, and corporations to continually increase our impact. With more than 30 years' experience piloting and implementing housing programs, we have solidified our position as an industry-leading expert on navigating the affordable housing field.