

February 1, 2018

Greetings!

We have some good news to kick off February!

Starting today, elders, unaccompanied youth, people with disabilities, and other households without minor children can begin applying for fiscal year 2018 homelessness prevention funds through the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program (RAFT, line item 7004-9316). Building upon last year's \$500,000 pilot, up to \$2 million will be made available between now and June 30th by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to help households without children avoid or exit homelessness.

As you may recall, the Legislature included the \$2 million in the overall \$15 million FY'18 RAFT line item, but Governor Baker vetoed the funds and language that expanded the definition of family beyond households with children under the age of 21. The Legislature overrode the veto in the fall, and we have been working since then to make sure the funds would be released to serve hundreds of households experiencing housing instability. Households approved for RAFT can receive up to \$4,000 to help with expenses such as back rent, back utility bills, first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposits.

Thank you for your calls, emails, State House visits, and general advocacy that helped make this possible!

See the [DHCD website](#) for more details about RAFT. A list of RAFT providers is available there and [on our website](#).



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

GOOD NEWS ON RAFT!

FY'18 RAFT EXPANSION BEGINS TODAY!

Starting today (February 1st), elders, unaccompanied youth, people with disabilities, and other households without minor children can begin applying for FY'18 homelessness prevention funds through the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program. Building upon last year's \$500,000 pilot, up to \$2 million will be made available this year by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to help households without children avoid or exit homelessness. Thank you for your advocacy that helped make this possible! Learn more about RAFT at www.mahomeless.org.

Thank you for your calls, emails, State House visits, and general advocacy that helped make this possible!

Please help spread the word, as we expect that the funds will be exhausted quickly.

With gratitude,

Kelly Turley

Kelly Turley
kelly@mahomeless.org
 781-595-7570 x17

SPEAK OUT TO END HOMELESSNESS!

Join the **Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless** for **Legislative Action Day 2018**

Hosted by Representative Jim O'Day
Tuesday, February 27th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
The Great Hall, Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St. Boston, MA
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/MCHLAD2018>

So that everyone has a place to call
HOME

THE MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS www.mahomeless.org

STAY CONNECTED:



DONATE TODAY

Support the Coalition's mission to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.

www.mahomeless.org/donate

