



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

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

Please Urge Your State Legislators to Adopt Senate Language and Funding to Expand Access to the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program!

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/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. Currently, RAFT only can serve families with children under the age of 21.

What would the Senate version of RAFT do?

- Expand access to RAFT to elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other households without minor children
- Increase RAFT funding to at least \$13 million for FY'17, up from the FY'16 funding level of \$12.5 million.
- Ensure that families with children, the population currently served by RAFT, continues to receive at least \$12.5 million in FY'17

What impact would the Senate version have?

With at least \$13 million, an estimated 4,460 individual households — of various sizes and configurations — would be able to receive immediate resources to prevent homelessness, based on the average FY'15 RAFT expenditure of \$2,915/family.

The Coalition urges the Conference Committee to adopt the Senate's language and funding under Section 2, in item 7004-9316, by adding the following: "provided further, for purposes of this line item, families shall include households of all sizes and configurations, including but not limited to families with children under the age of 21, elders, persons with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth";

and in said item by inserting after the words "otherwise require shelter services under item 7004-0101;" the following: "provided further, an amount not less than the fiscal year 2016 appropriation shall be made available to eligible families with children under the age of 21";

and in said item by striking out the figure "\$12,500,000" and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- "\$13,000,000".



Join us to work to expand access to homelessness prevention programs, so everyone has a place to call home!

Please urge your State Representative and Senator to weigh in favorably with the Conference Committee to adopt the Senate's RAFT expansion language and funding. If you have any questions please contact:

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