



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

August 20, 2013

Important Information for Families Timing Out of the HomeBASE Rental Assistance Program

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[Flyer for families timing out of HomeBASE rental assistance](#)

[HomeBASE Household Assistance income eligibility chart for families transitioning from Rental Assistance](#)

[Emergency Assistance income eligibility chart](#)

[Coalition's FY'14 EA advocacy page](#)

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Dear friend,

Throughout the course of fiscal year 2014, an estimated 5,400 families will time out of the two-year HomeBASE Rental Assistance program. While the full rental assistance benefits will no longer be available to families, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be providing additional resources to many of these families to help them to retain their current housing or to relocate to new, more affordable housing.

Please see below for more details, and please share this [flyer](#) and alert with families and other stakeholders.

We will be back in touch as more information becomes available. Thank you for all of your FY'14 budget advocacy that helped to make these resources available!

-Kelly Turley
Director of Legislative Advocacy
kelly@mahomeless.org
781-595-7570 x17

Next Steps: Potential Resources for Families Timing Out of HomeBASE Rental Assistance



All families still receiving HomeBASE Rental Assistance benefits will reach their 24-month time limit during this fiscal year. As many families will not be able to maintain their current unit or be able to move to another more affordable unit without additional financial assistance, DHCD and its contracted providers will be working to try to connect families with needed resources.

Families who are in good standing with the HomeBASE program *may* be eligible for:

- * **Up to \$4,000 in additional funds through HomeBASE Household Assistance.** These funds can help families maintain their current apartment or move into a more affordable one. In order to be eligible, families must have incomes at or below 50% of the area median income. [A chart with the 50% AMI figures by region is available here.](#)
- * **Up to \$4,000 through the [Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program \(RAFT\)](#),** after a family uses up Household Assistance
- * **A housing subsidy through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), if a household member is living with a disability.** DHCD will be in touch soon with each HomeBASE family to provide more details on how families can submit verification of disability and be part of the subsidy lottery.
- * **Streamlined access to Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter,** if families need it and meet the basic eligibility requirements, including [income eligibility](#). For specific details on EA eligibility, see the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute [EA Advocacy Guide](#).

In addition, families who have applied for *state-funded* subsidized housing should receive/maintain any homelessness preference offered by particular local housing authorities and regional housing agencies.

HomeBASE participants should contact their HomeBASE stabilization worker with questions. Families, providers, advocates, legislative staff, and property owners also can call the **DHCD HomeBASE hotline at 617-573-1123.**

(For basic HomeBASE information, also feel free to contact Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.)



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Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless



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Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless | 15 Bubier St. | Lynn | MA | 01901