



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

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

## Please Urge Your State Legislators to Override Governor Baker's Veto of the Language to Expand Access to the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program (Line Item 7001-9316)!

### 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.

For FY'17, the program is funded at \$13 million, up from the FY'16 funding level of \$12.5 million. The Governor *did not* veto the additional funding added by the Legislature.

### What is the expansion language that the Governor struck from the line item?

"and provided further, that for purposes of this 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"

### What would the restoration of the Legislature's RAFT expansion language do?

The language would expand access to RAFT to elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other households without minor children—households that currently are categorically excluded from the program.

### What impact would the expansion to RAFT have?

With this language and \$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.

At a time when countless elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other households are experiencing housing instability, the expansion of RAFT will provide an important lifeline and promote greater housing stability.



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 override Governor Baker's veto of the RAFT expansion language. If you have any questions please contact:

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