



RAAP Campaign

Prevent homelessness by funding the Rent Arrearage Assistance Program

SAMPLE CITY/TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. #####

WHEREAS, a Massachusetts household would need to earn an hourly wage of \$28.64, or work 95 hours per week at the state's \$12 per hour minimum wage, in order to afford rent on a modest 2-bedroom home; and

WHEREAS, there are 299,505 extremely low income (ELI) renter households in Massachusetts that earn at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), or \$28,923 annually; and

WHEREAS, there are only 46 rental homes affordable and available for every 100 ELI renter households across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, 60% of ELI renter households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half their incomes on monthly rent; and

WHEREAS, households experiencing a severe housing cost burden are 50% more likely than those not experiencing a cost burden to face an eviction due to nonpayment of rent; and

WHEREAS, for the lowest income households, eviction often leads directly to the experience of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, 20,068 Massachusetts residents experienced homelessness on any given night in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the most effective solution for preventing eviction and homelessness is to help at-risk households remain stably housed; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) operated a successful rent arrearage program until 2003 that provided low income families with cash assistance to pay back rent, helping 96% of those who received assistance remain in their homes and avoid becoming homeless;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of [CITY/TOWN NAME] that [CITY/TOWN NAME] endorses the RAAP Campaign to restore the statewide rent arrearage assistance program and prevent homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [CITY/TOWN NAME] joins with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless in urging [STATE SEN. NAME], [STATE REP. NAME], and all members of the 191st General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support House Bill 1264, introduced by Representative Marjorie Decker of Cambridge, to work actively to advance the bill through the legislative process.

For more information, contact James Saucedo at james@mahomeless.org / 781-595-7570 x 33 or Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org / 781-595-7570 x17. The RAAP Campaign is a campaign of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. Learn more at www.mahomeless.org/advocacy.

