

Why is the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Homelessness Prevention Program so important? (RAFT, line item 7004-9316)

"The updated guidelines that include all households have been critical to meeting the needs of the women we serve. It has made such a difference!...

For women who are striving to avoid homelessness, money for eviction-prevention payments is nearly impossible to find without RAFT. Private charities can't afford the amounts required. So if a person falls behind on rent due to an unforeseen situation, or simply struggles with the life skills to maintain a tenancy, RAFT provides that lifeline to stay housed. This is important because once a person has an eviction on record (which is a public record) landlords are seldom willing to extend an offer of housing. This lengthens the time a household experiences homelessness and perpetuates the cycle. RAFT disrupts the cycle and helps build stability and health." - Anonymous

What impact has RAFT had?

With \$500,000 in FY'17, 124 individual households received immediate resources to prevent homelessness; 57% were disabled adults, 29% were adults without children living in their household, 13% were elders 1% were unaccompanied youth and 1% were elders with disabilities.



What would the Legislature's FY'18 budget recommendation for RAFT do?

Expand access to RAFT to elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other households without minor children, and increase RAFT funding to \$15 million in FY'18, up from the FY'17 funding level of \$13 million, earmarks up to \$2 million allowing state agencies to serve up to an estimated 496 households who meet the expanded definition of a household.

What can you do?

Please ask Governor Baker to retain the RAFT language and funding increase to ensure that this program receives funding to last the entire fiscal year and remains accessible to households of all sizes and configurations!

Governor's office phone number: 617.725.4005

For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless: Tina Giarla, tina@mahomeless.org, 781-595-7570 x16 or Kelly Turley, kelly@mahomeless.org, x17