



RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION  
HOMELESSNESS  
PREVENTION PROGRAM  
LINE ITEM 7004-9316

**Please Cosponsor and Actively Support Representative Marjorie Decker's House Budget Amendment #90 to Expand the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program in FY 2018:**

**Maintain expanded eligibility and increase funding to help more low-income households avoid or exit 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/year in flexible funds to help households avoid or exit homelessness. Typical uses for RAFT include funds for rent, mortgage, or utility arrears, first and last months' rent; utility startup costs, moving expenses, related household expenses, and/or employment-related transportation costs. RAFT provides short-term financial assistance to households with incomes at or below 50 percent of AMI. At least 50% of the funds are dedicated to households with incomes below 30% of area median income (AMI). RAFT is a program of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and is administered by 11 regional agencies across the Commonwealth.

**What would the RAFT amendment, Amendment #90, do?**

- Expand access to RAFT to elders, people with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, and other households without minor children (matching language from the final FY'17 budget)
- Increase RAFT funding to \$18.5 million for FY'18, up from the House Ways and Means recommended funding level of \$15 million.
- Ensure that families with children, the population currently served by RAFT, continues to receive at least \$12.5 million in FY'18

**What impact would Amendment #90 have?**

With \$18.5 million in FY'18, an estimated 6,016 households would be able to receive immediate resources to prevent homelessness, based on the average FY'16 RAFT expenditure of \$3,075/family (including the \$539 administrative fee per household approved).

**What does Amendment #90 say?**

Representative Decker of Cambridge moves to amend the bill in section 2, item 7004-9316, by inserting after the words "reduction of income or increased expenses;" 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 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 2017 appropriation shall be made available to eligible families with children under the age of 21;" and by striking out the figures "\$15,000,000" and inserting in place thereof the figures "\$18,500,000".

**Please join us by actively supporting increasing RAFT funding to \$18.5 million and maintaining expanded eligibility language for FY'18 to help more families and individuals across the Commonwealth to have a safe, stable place to call home.**

**If your office would like to sign on to Amendment #90 or needs more details, please contact Kelly Turley of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, [kelly@mahomeless.org](mailto:kelly@mahomeless.org) or Stephanie Sanchez, Legislative Aide at [Stephanie.Sanchez@mahouse.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Sanchez@mahouse.gov) or 617-722-2692.**

**The Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program's Organizational Endorsements  
(RAFT, line item 7004-9316)**

Action for Boston Community Development  
Action Inc.  
AIDS Action Committee  
Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT)  
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative  
Arise for Social Justice  
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)  
Boston Center for Independent Living  
Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee  
Boston Homeless Union Local 1  
Boston Tenant Coalition  
Bridge Over Troubled Water  
Brockton Area Multi Services, Inc.  
Cardinal Medeiros Center  
Center Board Lynn  
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association  
City Mission Boston  
Community Action Agency of Somerville  
Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.  
Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care,  
Community Health and Advocacy Subcommittee of the  
Student Leadership Committee  
Ecumenical Social Action Committee  
Family Promise North Shore Boston  
Father Bill's & MainSpring  
First Church Shelter  
Friends of the Homeless North Weymouth  
Habitat for Humanity North Shore  
HAP, Inc.  
HomeStart  
Housing Families Inc.  
Hunger and Homelessness Division of the Brandeis  
University Waltham Group  
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center  
Justice Resource Institute -- Youth Harbors  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Life Bridge

Lowell Transitional Living Center  
Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO)  
Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development  
Lynn Shelter Association  
Mandela Residents Cooperative Assoc., Inc.  
Massachusetts Association for Community Action  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Massachusetts Home Care  
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance  
Massachusetts Senior Action Council  
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership  
Mission and Justice Ministry of Park Avenue  
Congregational Church UCC  
My Brothers Table  
North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP)  
Pax Christi USA - Beverly  
Peabody Housing Authority  
Pine Street Inn  
Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness  
Poor People's United Fund  
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts  
River House  
Rosie's Place  
Samaritans Steps  
Sojourner House  
Somerville Homeless Coalition  
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services  
South Coast Regional Network to End Homelessness  
South Middlesex Opportunity Council  
St. Francis House  
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
Student Leadership Committee of the Harvard Medical  
School Center for Primary Care  
The Psychological Center  
Those Who Can, For Those In Need  
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness  
Women's Lunch Place



For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless:  
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