



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".

Current amendment cosponsors: Representatives Decker (lead sponsor), Ashe, Atkins, Barber, Benson, Cabral, Calter, Chan, Collins, Connolly, Cullinane, Donahue, DuBois, Ehrlich, Garballey, Goldstein-Rose, Gonzalez, Gordon, Hecht, Heroux, Holmes, Keefe, Khan, Lawn, Livingstone, Mark, Moran, Murphy, Provost, Scibak, Smizik, Stanley, Tosado, Vega, Velis, Vincent, Walsh, and Zlotnik,

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 or Stephanie Sanchez, Legislative Aide at 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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Maureen Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@regionalhousing.net, 617-367-9798.