



RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION (RAFT)

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) is a state-funded program that allows families and individuals to stay housed or move into their next home during periods of housing instability and crisis.

Who is eligible?

- The household income must be at or below 50 percent of area median income (AMI).
- The family must be composed of two or more people living together, one of whom is a dependent child under the age of 21. A pregnant mother qualifies if she is the head of household.
- Limited funds are available for individuals experiencing a financial crisis.
- Contact the Housing Consumer Education Center for further details.

How can RAFT funds be used?

Eligible households can receive up to \$4,000 in a 12-month period. Funds can be used for:

- Rental or mortgage arrearages.
- Short-term rental stipend.
- Security deposits.
- First and last month's rent.
- Utility arrearages.
- Furniture.
- Employment-related transportation costs.

There are restrictions on RAFT rental assistance for families residing in subsidized housing or who have a rental voucher.

Documentation requirements

The family must provide documentation/proof that they are currently experiencing a housing crisis.

Examples include:

Crisis	Documentation
Eviction	Court Summons
Foreclosure	Notice from mortgage lender stating intent to foreclose.
Current home doesn't meet Health & Safety Standards	Documentation from Board of Health that unit has failed inspection or condemnation order for the unit.
Severe overcrowding	Notice from Board of Health verifying living situation is a state health code violation.
Asked to leave friend/family member's home	Letter from property owner or primary tenant stating family is being asked to leave within 30 days.
Violence or abuse	Documentation of domestic violence or unsafe housing

To apply for RAFT, contact:

Housing Consumer Education Center, 617.425.6700
ResourceLine@MetroHousingBoston.org

For more information, contact

Molly Butman, Assistant Director of Housing Supports
617.425.6753 | molly.butman@MetroHousingBoston.org

RAFT by the numbers (FY18)

- 1,424 families received RAFT assistance.
- Average benefit received: \$2,690.
- Total funds distributed in FY18: \$3.74 million.

OUR MISSION: Metro Housing|Boston mobilizes wide-ranging resources to provide innovative and personalized services that lead families and individuals to housing stability, economic security, and an improved quality of life.