



# Eviction Diversion Initiative Update Presentation to Trial Court Stakeholder Meeting

Baker-Polito Administration  
12/17/20

DRAFT Last Updated: 12/16/20 10am

- Key Highlights
- Funding for the Eviction Diversion Initiative
- Data that the Administration is using to monitor the initiative
  - Calls for Assistance: Housing Consumer Education Centers & Mass 211
  - RAFT program
  - HomeBASE and Shelters
- Key Links to Resources

# Highlights of Programs (p.1 of 2)



## Overall:

- **To date, no spike in demand for Rapid Rehousing or Shelter, but huge demand for rental assistance**
- **Organizations making progress on recruitment - 250 of 361 positions filled**
- Regional connections have been established across providers, creating stronger processes for coordination & communication

## Public Info Campaign:

- Continue to “blast” large network on resources available, providing resources like flyers in multiple languages
- Using social media, videos, & billboards to spread awareness
  - Phase I (complete): How to access financial assistance; contact 211 & Housing Consumer Ed Centers
  - Phase II (current): How to access legal services & mediation

## Housing Consumer Education Centers:

- New service coordinators & additional intake specialists bringing additional capacity
- Agencies actively responding to all calls for assistance

## Tenancy Preservation Program:

- **Expanded services are live as of Monday 12/14 with some caseworker positions still in recruitment**
- Serving as a convener for regional partners, given existing connections to Housing Court

# Highlights of Programs (p. 2 of 2)



## RAFT:

- **Adjusting program to respond to calls to streamline: shortening application, reducing documentation requirements, issuing an emergency regulation to grant “presumed eligibility” for all DTA & MassHealth eligible applicants**
- Tracking weekly applications & reviews w/Regional Housing Network; working closely with four highest-volume RAAs.

## Mediation:

- **12 Community Mediation Centers operating & accepting referrals from Courts, Housing Consumer Education Centers & other partners, plus serving “walk-ins”**

## Covid Eviction Legal Help:

- **Volunteer Lawyers Project staffing Lawyer for the Day program in Housing Court**
- Legal Assistance Organizations continue to recruit attorneys, paralegals, & coordinators with plan to be fully staffed and operational at end of December

## Rapid Rehousing:

- **Strategic Prevention Initiative (SPI) expanded to serve Springfield, Worcester, & Lawrence**
- **Mass Emergency Transitional Assistance Reserve (METAR) live as of 12/9**
- HomeBASE contracts expanded

# Funding for the Eviction Diversion Initiative



- On Friday, 12/11, the Governor signed into law (in-part) an FY21 Budget that represents an expansion of approximately \$100M over FY20 spending. These dollars will greatly support implementation of the EDI Plan.
- Notably, this budget includes:
  - Increased funding for individual and family shelters to better position DHCD to address the needs of shelter providers;
  - \$50 million in appropriation for RAFT as well as key program changes relative to income verification and benefit levels (tied to the State of Emergency)
    - E.g. RAFT maximum benefit increased to \$10K & the \$10K, 12-month combined limit on RAFT and HomeBASE is suspended
  - An expansion of MRVP to enable DHCD to make necessary program modifications and release new, targeted mobile vouchers for vulnerable populations; and
  - More resources for Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCEC) and Tenant Preservation Program (TPP).

# Weekly Requests for Financial Assistance to Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCEC)



## HCEC

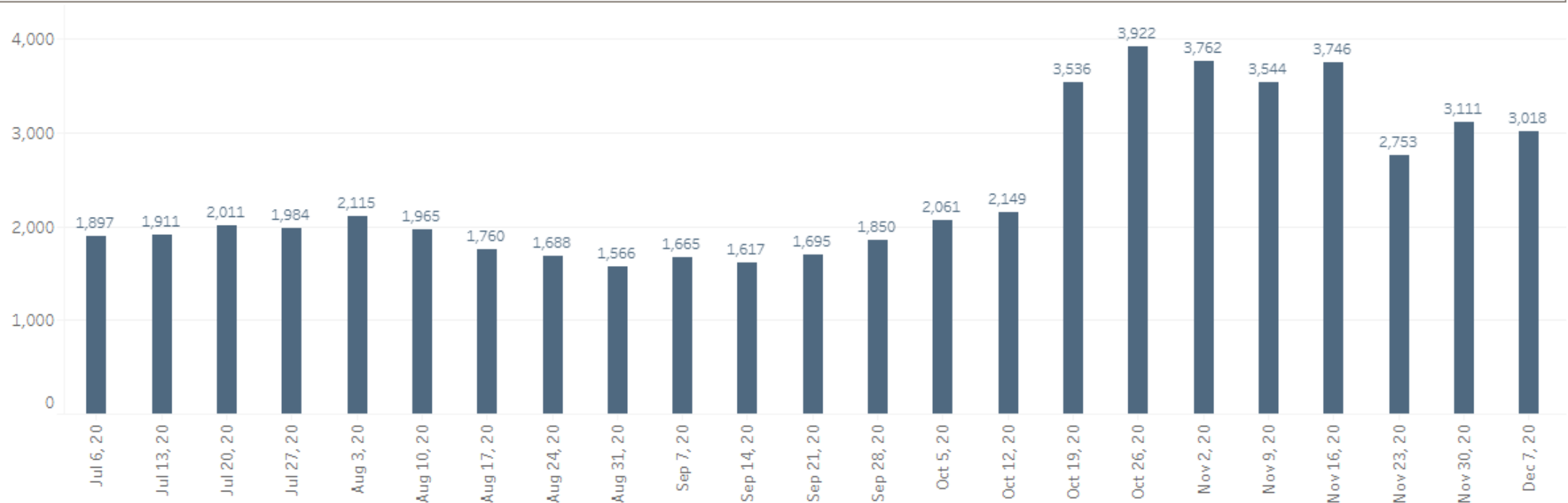
Choose a Reference Date

Start of Fiscal Year

Total # of Unique Requests for Financial Assistance

55,326

### Unique Requests for Financial Assistance by Week



1. Data is only represented weekly. The reference line is an approximation as it refers to the beginning of the week after in which the event occurred.

Data source: Self-reported by individual HCECs

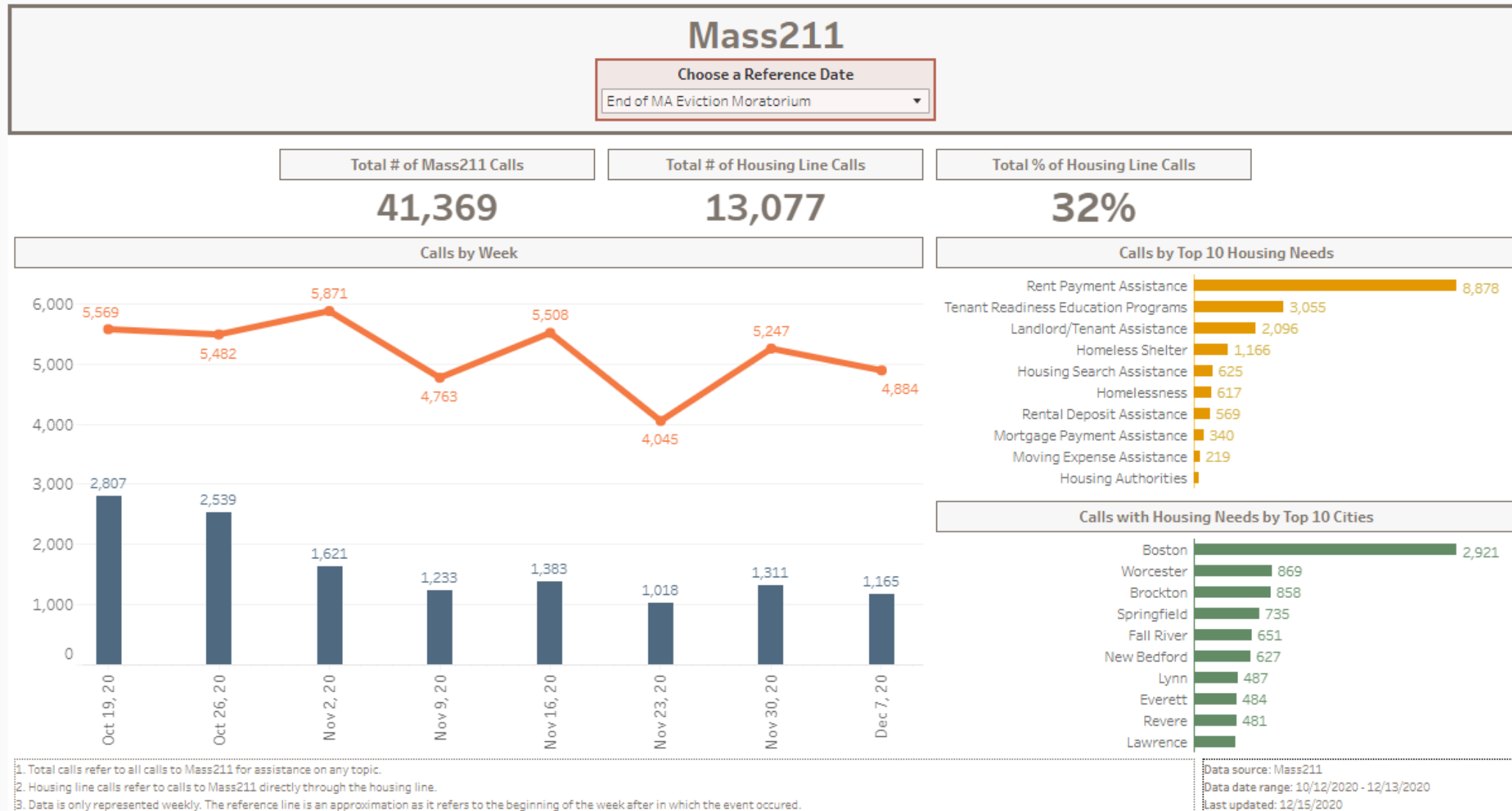
Data date range: 6/29/2020 - 12/12/2020

Last updated: 12/15/2020

DRAFT FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

# Weekly Calls to Mass211

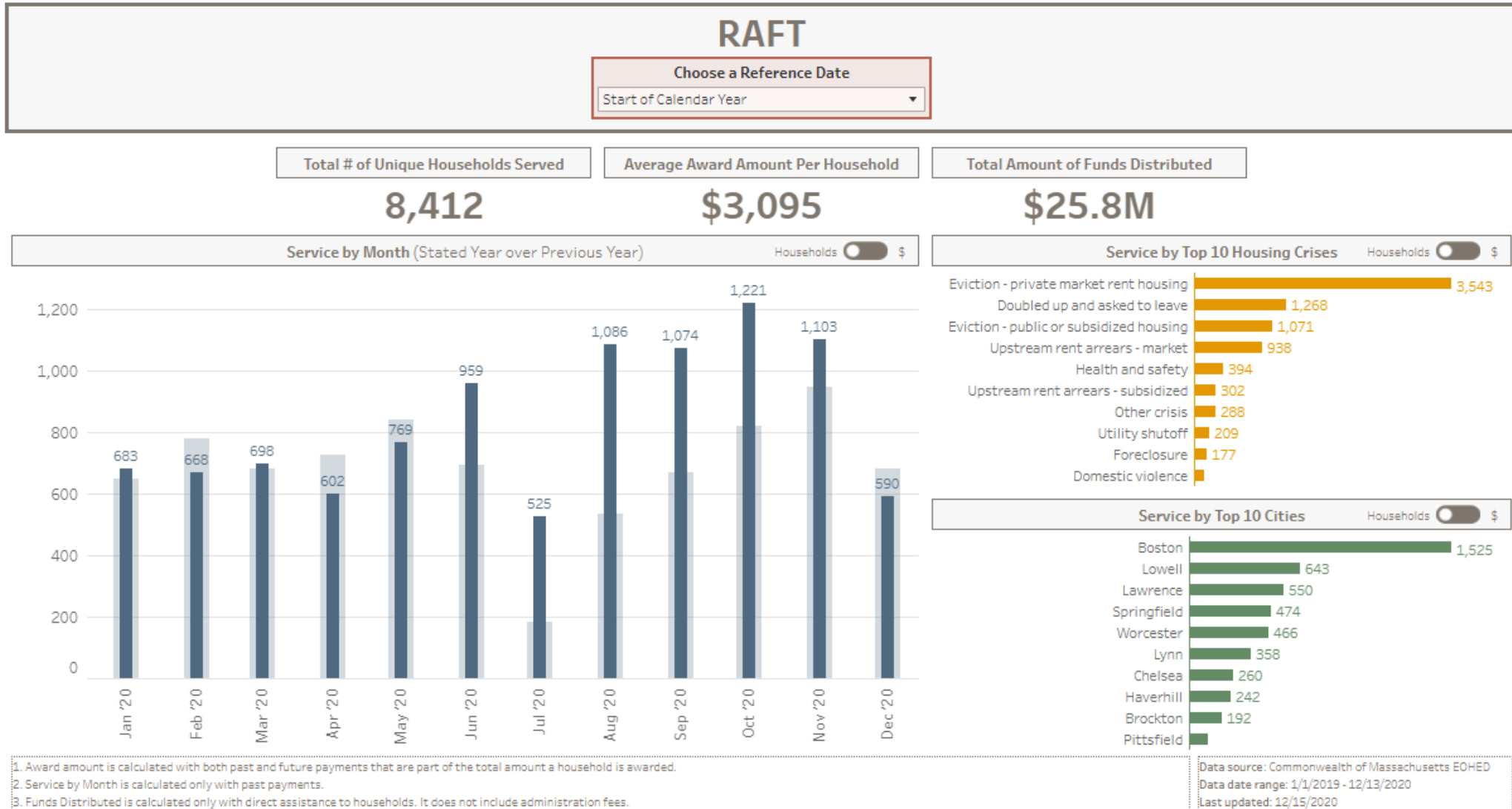
## Overall and to the “housing” line





# RAFT Monthly Households Served

- December data shows only two weeks to date



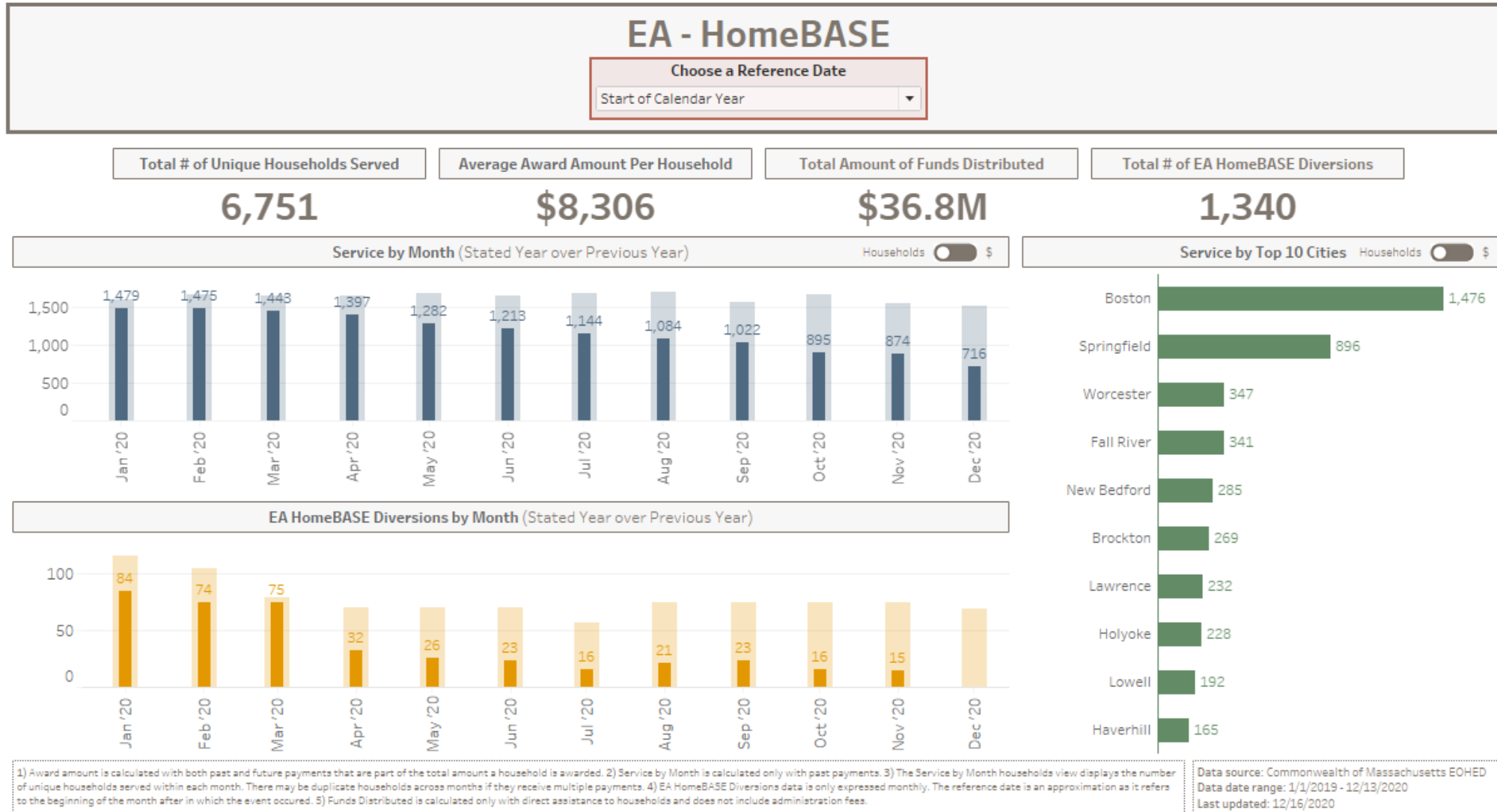


# HomeBASE Monthly Households Served

## Total Households & Diversions from Emergency Assistance (EA or Family Shelter)



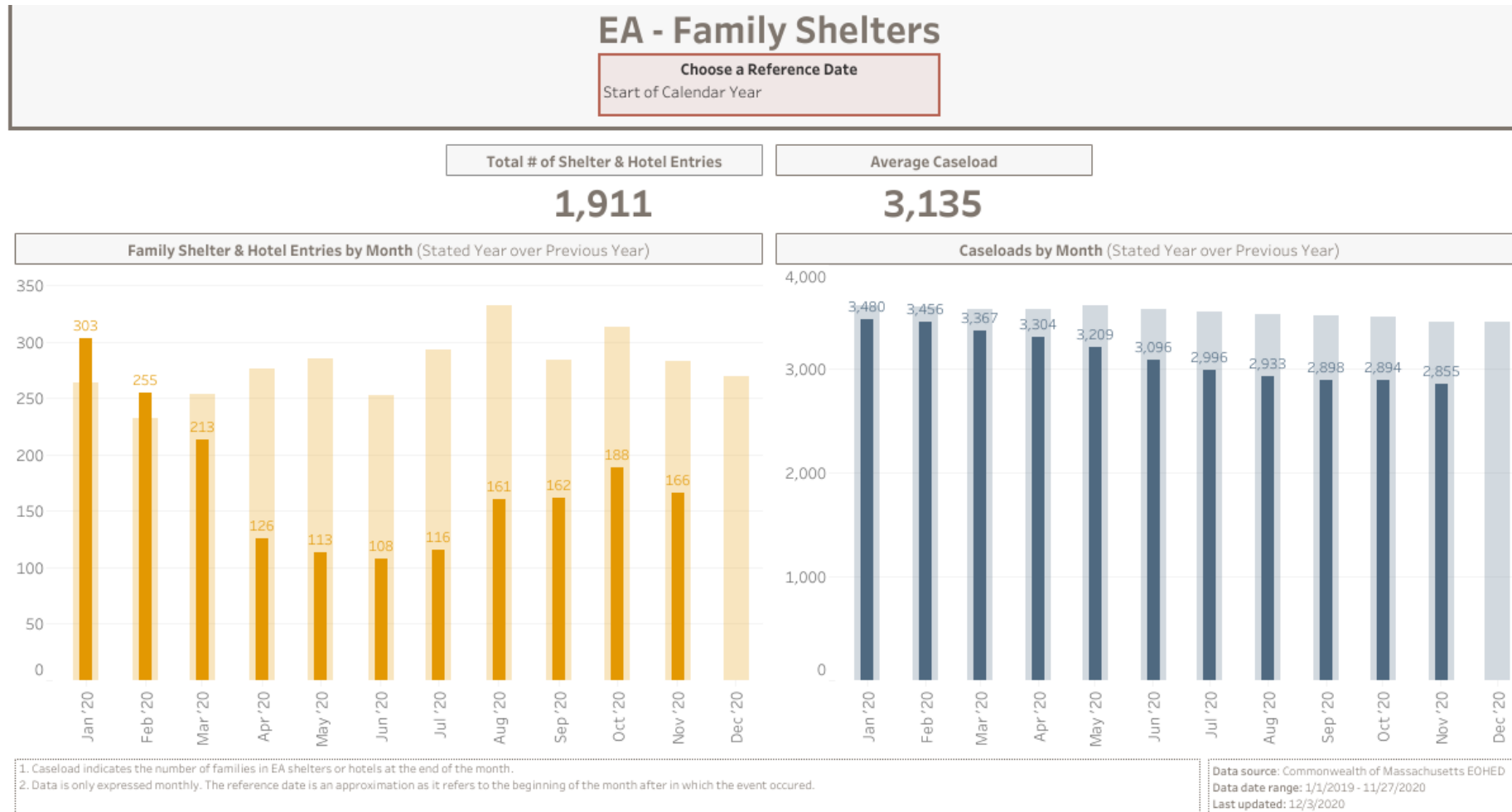
- December data shows only two weeks



# Monthly EA (Emergency Assistance or Family Shelter) Shelter & Hotel Entries & Total Caseloads



- December data available in January



# Key Resource Links



- Trial Court Dashboard: [Massachusetts Trial Court, Summary Process - Massachusetts Trial Court, Department of Research and Planning | Tableau Public](#)
- HED Eviction Diversion Dashboard: **TBD**
- DHCD webpage: [www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp](http://www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp)
- DHCD non-searchable webpage for downloading flyers, media, info: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/eviction-diversion-initiative-public-information-campaign-materials>
- Regional Housing Network webpage: [www.mahousinghelp.com](http://www.mahousinghelp.com)
- Covid Eviction Legal Help webpage: [CEHLP - Massachusetts COVID Eviction Legal Help Project](#)
- MOPC Community Mediation Center webpage: [Funded Centers - University of Massachusetts Boston \(umb.edu\)](#)