

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE  
and RAFT Programs**

Fiscal Year 2019, First Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development  
December 3, 2018



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA, HomeBASE and RAFT Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 1, SFY 2019**

In FY19 Quarter 1, 2,146 families applied for EA, eight percent more than the previous quarter (1,981 families) and three percent more than FY18 Quarter 1. 948 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 1, 3 percent fewer than the previous quarter (974 families) and 1 percent fewer families than FY18 Quarter 1. During FY19 Quarter 1, 217 EA eligible families (19%) were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. Another, 1,455 families were approved for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, which provides a benefit of up to \$4,000 to families at risk of homelessness to assist them in maintaining or securing housing.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 354 families in Quarter 1, accounting for 37 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 16 percent and the Brockton office at 9 percent.

Sixty-three percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while domestic violence was the reason for homelessness for 16 percent of families, eviction for 12 percent, threatened eviction for two percent, and fire, flood and natural disaster accounted for one percent of entries. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 63 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-nine percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Five percent of families who entered due to a health and safety reason were experiencing problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness), while the remaining three percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units.

During Quarter 1, 824 families exited the EA system. 414 (50 percent) of the families exiting left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

The quarter ended with a total EA caseload of 3,630 families with one percent of these families placed in overflow hotels/motels.

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**EA Applications and Entries**

All Applications	SFY 2019 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			FY19 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
Families Applying to EA	2,146	1981	753	797	662	2,146
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,165	1,188	390	434	341	1,165
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	948	974	328	362	258	948
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	81%	82%	84%	83%	76%	81%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	217	214	62	72	83	217
% Entering HomeBASE	19%	18%	16%	17%	24%	19%

**Note:** Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

**Sources:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

**EA Health & Safety Assessments**

	SFY 2019 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			FY19 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	743	652	218	285	240	743
Families Determined at Risk	642	566	187	247	208	642
% Referrals at Risk	86%	87%	86%	87%	87%	86%
Shelter Diversions	101	86	31	38	32	101
% Referrals Diverted	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	14%

**Source:** DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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**EA Shelter Entries by Region**

Regional Office	SFY 2019 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	354	37%	346	119	134	101	354	37%
Brockton	89	9%	92	24	38	27	89	9%
Fall River	6	1%	6	1	3	2	6	1%
Fitchburg	9	1%	10	2	4	3	9	1%
Framingham	18	2%	11	5	7	6	18	2%
Greenfield	6	1%	9	3	0	3	6	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hyannis	15	2%	14	6	4	5	15	2%
Lawrence	51	5%	63	24	17	10	51	5%
Lowell	2	<1%	3	1	1	0	2	<1%
Malden	2	<1%	2	0	2	0	2	<1%
New Bedford	51	5%	45	15	20	16	51	5%
North Shore/Salem	54	6%	66	17	21	16	54	6%
Pittsfield/North Adams	2	<1%	3	0	2	0	2	<1%
Plymouth	1	<1%	1	0	1	0	1	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	56	6%	67	23	22	11	56	6%
Southbridge	7	1%	5	0	4	3	7	1%
Springfield	156	16%	180	59	59	38	156	16%
Taunton	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Worcester	69	7%	51	29	23	17	69	7%

**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

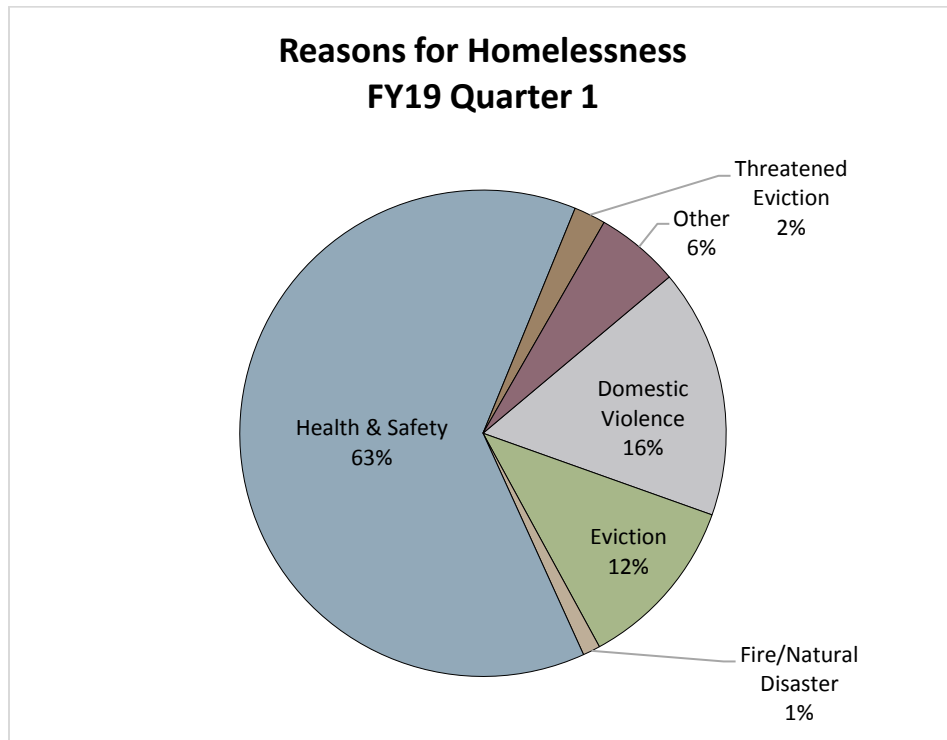
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**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

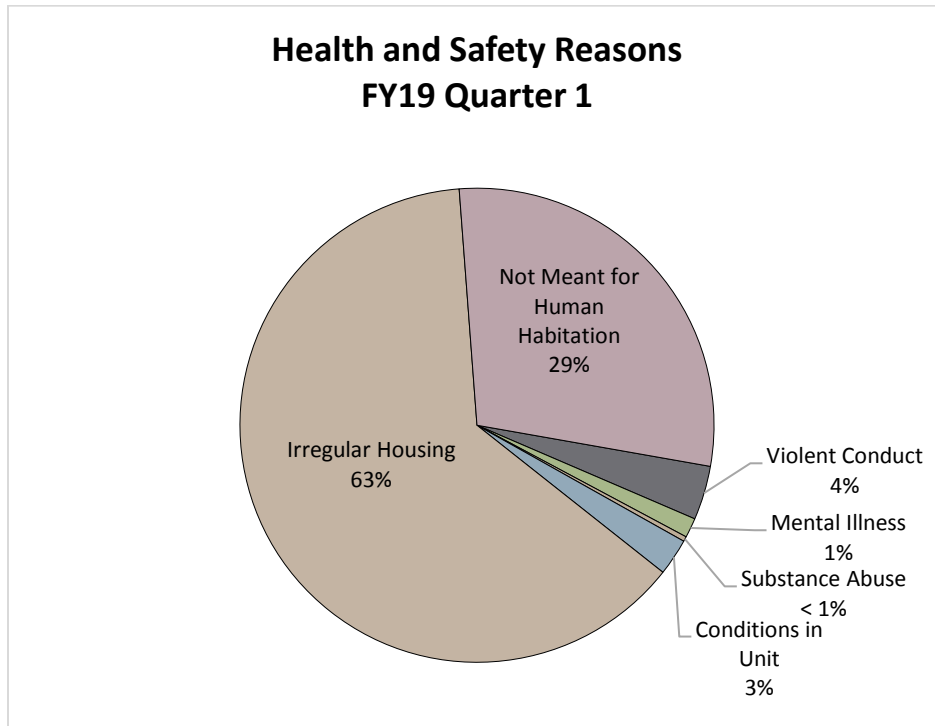
Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2019 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	157	17%	161	45	62	50	157	17%
Eviction	110	12%	120	37	47	26	110	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	11	1%	14	5	4	2	11	1%
Health & Safety	597	63%	611	217	217	163	597	63%
Threatened Eviction	20	2%	46	8	7	5	20	2%
Other	53	6%	22	16	25	12	53	6%

**Note:** Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.

**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit data.



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**Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits**

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	SFY 2019 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>100%</b>
Abandoned	164	104	65	68	31	164	20%
Criminal Activity	1	9	0	1	0	1	< 1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	414	514	123	159	132	414	50%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	92	135	29	30	33	92	11%
Ineligible	22	14	8	9	5	22	3%
No Show/Rejected Placement	5	5	2	3	0	5	1%
Non-compliance	17	6	4	2	11	17	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	92	63	31	31	30	92	11%
Other/Unknown	17	22	6	4	7	17	2%

**Notes:**

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

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Types of Subsidies at Exit	SFY 2019 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total Families Receiving Subsidies</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>
ESG	5	5	2	0	3	5	1%
HomeBASE	427	514	136	159	132	427	85%
HUD Continuum of Care	13	20	5	3	5	13	3%
MRVP	13	21	4	5	4	13	3%
Private Subsidized Housing	40	32	13	13	14	40	8%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	35	168	16	10	9	35	7%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	21	34	5	7	9	21	4%
Other Public Housing	29	33	5	17	7	29	6%
Transportation	7	5	4	1	2	7	1%

**Notes:**

Families may receive multiple subsidy types. Therefore, the sum of the subsidy types does not equal the number of families. Data based on subsidies identified at time of shelter/hotel exit and may vary from HomeBASE Tracker data, which is based on the date that checks are issued.

**Source:** DHCD, ASIST EA State Exit Assessments.

**Assistance Provided to Families  
with Previous Episodes of Homelessness**

Type of Assistance	SFY 2019 Quarter	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 19 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>166</b>
Strategic Prevention Support	12	11	4	3	5	12
HomeBASE Diversion	90	69	23	41	26	90
EA Shelter/Hotel	64	64	24	24	16	64

**Note:** Data includes returns of families active in EA from FY2014 through the present.

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**EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload**

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 1, SFY 2019	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,592	99%
Hotels/Motels	38	1%
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>100%</b>
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	49	
% Change from Previous Quarter	1.4%	

**Note:** Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA  
During SFY 2019, Quarter 1**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,471	335
Cost Per Episode	\$150	\$370,650	\$50,250

**Note:** Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$150.

**HomeBASE Caseload and Payments**

	SFY 2019 Quarter 1
<b>HomeBASE Household Assistance</b>	
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	3,782
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	671
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	3,111
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 3 years of Receiving HB	80
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$2,051
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$21
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$9,139.38

**Note:** Data reflect the average benefit amount per household during the quarter. Actual payments per participant will be higher since households can use HomeBASE for up to 12 months.



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## Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

### RAFT Applications and Approvals

	SFY 2019 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 1			SFY 2019 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
<b>Families Applying</b>	<b>1,775</b>		<b>1,561</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>1,775</b>	
Families Approved	1,455	100%	1,260	254	542	659	1,455	100%
Asked to Leave	439	30%	322	75	162	202	439	30%
Domestic Violence	45	3%	17	6	14	25	45	3%
Eviction (Private)	360	25%	304	70	142	148	360	25%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	235	16%	202	40	69	126	235	16%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	23	2%	78	2	10	11	23	2%
Foreclosure	13	1%	17	2	6	5	13	1%
Health and Safety	36	2%	40	7	14	15	36	2%
Severe Overcrowding	27	2%	17	8	9	10	27	2%
Utility Shut-Off	202	14%	189	34	84	84	202	14%
Other Crisis	75	5%	74	10	32	33	75	5%

### RAFT Assistance Spending Quarter 1, SFY 2019

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	854
Average	\$2,503
Minimum	\$62
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$343,602	173	\$1,986
15-30% AMI	\$582,859	223	\$2,614
30-50% AMI	\$630,458	220	\$2,528

**Note:** Income level was unknown for 238 recipients due to a change in data collection processes.