

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE  
and RAFT Programs**

Fiscal Year 2019, Second Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development  
February 19, 2019



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA, HomeBASE and RAFT Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 2, SFY 2019**

In FY19 Quarter 2, 1,706 families applied for EA, 21 percent fewer than the previous quarter (2,146 families) and 14 percent fewer than FY18 Quarter 2. 781 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 2, 18 percent fewer than the previous quarter (948 families) and 13 percent fewer families than FY18 Quarter 2. During FY19 Quarter 2, 277 EA eligible families (26%) 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, 2,193 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, 270 families in Quarter 2, accounting for 35 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 20 percent and the Brockton office at 10 percent.

Sixty-two 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 13 percent, threatened eviction for two percent, and fire, flood and natural disaster accounted for less than one percent of entries. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 70 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-three 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 two percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units.

During Quarter 2, 773 families exited the EA system. 429 (55 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 3,622 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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			FY19 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
Families Applying to EA	1,706	2,146	660	578	480	3,732
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,058	1,165	403	321	334	2,223
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	781	948	312	229	240	1,729
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	74%	81%	77%	71%	72%	78%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	277	217	91	92	94	494
% Entering HomeBASE	26%	19%	23%	29%	28%	22%

**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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			FY19 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	613	743	249	213	151	1,356
Families Determined at Risk	524	642	206	181	137	1,166
% Referrals at Risk	85%	86%	83%	85%	91%	86%
Shelter Diversions	89	101	43	32	14	190
% Referrals Diverted	15%	14%	17%	15%	9%	14%

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

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**EA Shelter Entries by Region**

Regional Office	SFY 2019 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	270	35%	354	114	82	74	624	36%
Brockton	80	10%	89	27	26	27	169	10%
Fall River	4	1%	6	1	1	2	10	1%
Fitchburg	7	1%	9	5	1	1	16	1%
Framingham	8	1%	18	1	2	5	26	2%
Greenfield	6	1%	6	3	1	2	12	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hyannis	7	1%	15	3	2	2	22	1%
Lawrence	61	8%	51	23	17	21	112	6%
Lowell	4	1%	2	1	0	3	6	<1%
Malden	1	<1%	2	0	1	0	3	<1%
Milford	1	<1%	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
New Bedford	32	4%	51	14	7	11	83	5%
North Shore/Salem	38	5%	54	18	9	11	92	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	0	0%	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
Plymouth	0	0%	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	59	8%	56	24	21	14	115	7%
Southbridge	1	<1%	7	0	1	0	8	<1%
Springfield	155	20%	156	63	43	49	311	18%
Taunton	5	1%	0	3	2	0	5	<1%
Worcester	42	5%	69	12	12	18	111	6%

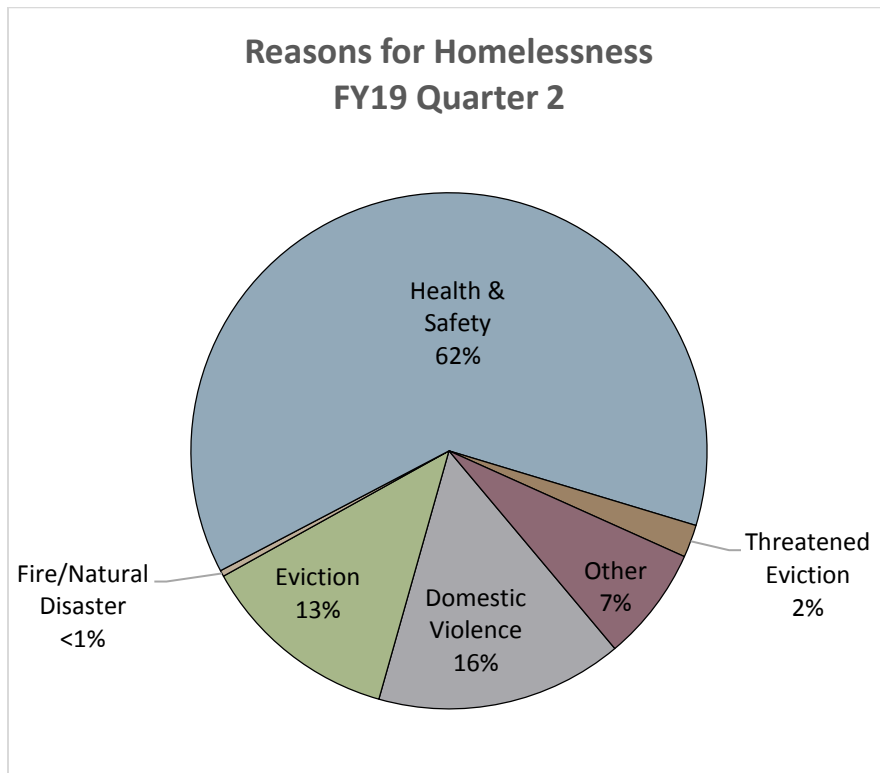
**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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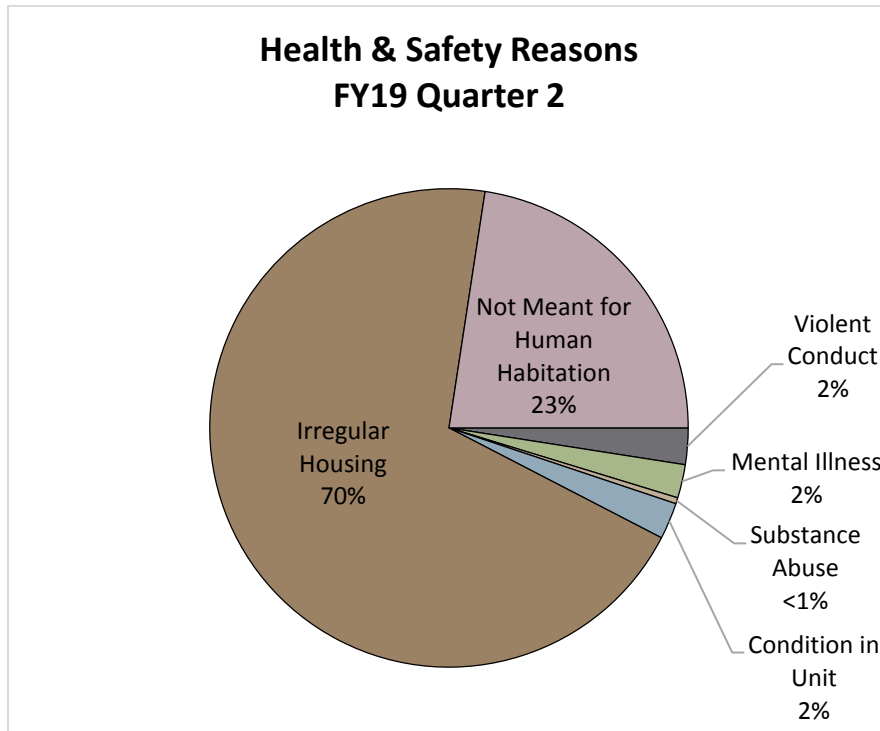
**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2019 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	121	15%	157	49	39	33	278	16%
Eviction	98	13%	110	41	24	33	208	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	3	<1%	11	0	2	1	14	1%
Health & Safety	487	62%	597	203	137	147	1,084	63%
Threatened Eviction	16	2%	20	3	7	6	36	2%
Other	56	7%	53	16	20	20	109	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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>100%</b>
Abandoned	104	164	39	28	37	268	17%
Criminal Activity	2	1	0	0	2	3	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	429	414	152	134	143	843	53%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	95	92	36	29	30	187	12%
Ineligible	16	22	4	5	7	38	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	6	5	2	1	3	11	1%
Non-compliance	16	17	7	6	3	33	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	76	92	31	27	18	168	11%
Other/Unknown	29	17	12	10	7	46	3%

**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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total Families Receiving Subsidies</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>100%</b>
ESG	3	5	0	1	2	8	1%
HomeBASE	429	427	152	134	143	856	84%
HUD Continuum of Care	19	13	8	7	4	32	3%
MRVP	18	13	6	7	5	31	3%
Private Subsidized Housing	35	40	12	10	13	75	7%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	32	35	10	10	12	67	7%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	26	21	10	5	11	47	5%
Other Public Housing	35	29	10	14	11	64	6%
Transportation	5	7	2	0	3	12	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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 19 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>315</b>
Strategic Prevention Support	10	12	5	3	2	22
HomeBASE Diversion	94	85	42	33	19	179
EA Shelter/Hotel	50	64	25	12	13	114

**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 2, SFY 2019	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,591	99%
Hotels/Motels	31	1%
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,622</b>	<b>100%</b>
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-8	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-0.2%	

**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 2**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,180	339
Cost Per Episode	\$150	\$327,000	\$50,850

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

**HomeBASE Caseload and Payments**

HomeBASE Household Assistance	SFY 2019 Quarter 2
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	3,731
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	754
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	2,977
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 3 years of Receiving HB	77
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$2,378
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$50
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$9,946

**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 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 2			SFY 2019 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
<b>Families Applying</b>	<b>2,556</b>		<b>1,775</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>4,331</b>	
Families Approved	2,193	100%	1,455	929	647	617	3,648	100%
Asked to Leave	768	30%	439	345	214	209	1,207	33%
Domestic Violence	63	3%	45	35	15	13	108	3%
Eviction (Private)	579	25%	360	224	165	190	939	26%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	344	16%	235	130	111	103	579	16%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	23	2%	23	12	4	7	46	1%
Foreclosure	34	1%	13	16	10	8	47	1%
Health and Safety	65	2%	36	30	14	21	101	3%
Severe Overcrowding	27	2%	27	13	10	4	54	1%
Utility Shut-Off	187	14%	202	87	77	23	389	11%
Other Crisis	103	5%	75	37	27	39	178	5%

### RAFT Assistance Spending Quarter 2, SFY 2019

<b>RAFT Payments</b>	
Total Families	1,931
Average	\$2,596
Minimum	\$145
Maximum	\$4,000

<b>Income level</b>	<b>Total Assistance</b>	<b># Families</b>	<b>Average Per Family</b>
0-15% AMI	\$1,183,969	511	\$2,317
15-30% AMI	\$1,668,739	663	\$2,517
30-50% AMI	\$2,036,843	700	\$2,910

**Note:** Income level was unknown for 57 recipients due to a change in data collection processes.