

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE,
and RAFT Programs**

Fiscal Year 2019, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

May 17, 2019



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA, HomeBASE and RAFT Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2019

In FY19 Quarter 3, 1,647 families applied for EA, 3 percent fewer than the previous quarter (1,706 families) and 13 percent fewer than FY18 Quarter 3. 750 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 3, 4 percent fewer than the previous quarter (781 families) and 22 percent fewer families than FY18 Quarter 3. During FY19 Quarter 3, 300 EA eligible families (29%) 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, 1,950 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, 251 families in Quarter 3, accounting for 33 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 20 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 15 percent of families, eviction for 13 percent, threatened eviction for three percent, and fire, flood and natural disaster accounted for one percent of entries. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 68 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-four percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Six 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 3, 760 families exited the EA system. 448 (59 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 3,575 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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			FY19 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	1,647	1,706	640	516	545	5,193
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,050	1,058	380	337	333	3,273
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	750	781	264	232	254	2,479
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	71%	74%	69%	69%	76%	76%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	300	277	116	105	79	794
% Entering HomeBASE	29%	26%	31%	31%	24%	24%

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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			FY19 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	578	613	220	179	179	1,934
Families Determined at Risk	504	524	199	150	155	1,670
% Referrals at Risk	87%	85%	90%	84%	87%	86%
Shelter Diversions	74	89	21	29	24	264
% Referrals Diverted	13%	15%	10%	16%	13%	14%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2019 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	750	100%	781	264	232	254	2,479	100%
Boston	251	33%	270	87	83	81	875	35%
Brockton	71	9%	80	26	24	21	240	10%
Fall River	3	<1%	4	0	0	3	13	1%
Fitchburg	9	1%	7	5	1	3	25	1%
Framingham	8	1%	8	2	3	3	34	1%
Greenfield	6	1%	6	3	1	2	18	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hyannis	11	1%	7	5	5	1	33	1%
Lawrence	50	7%	61	20	15	15	162	7%
Lowell	14	2%	4	3	5	6	20	1%
Malden	0	0%	1	0	0	0	3	<1%
Milford	0	0%	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
New Bedford	29	4%	32	8	8	13	112	5%
North Shore/Salem	44	6%	38	13	12	19	136	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	1	<1%	0	1	0	0	3	<1%
Plymouth	1	<1%	0	0	1	0	2	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	47	6%	59	16	13	18	162	7%
Southbridge	7	1%	1	2	2	3	15	1%
Springfield	149	20%	155	55	44	50	460	19%
Taunton	0	0%	5	0	0	0	5	<1%
Worcester	49	7%	42	18	15	16	160	6%

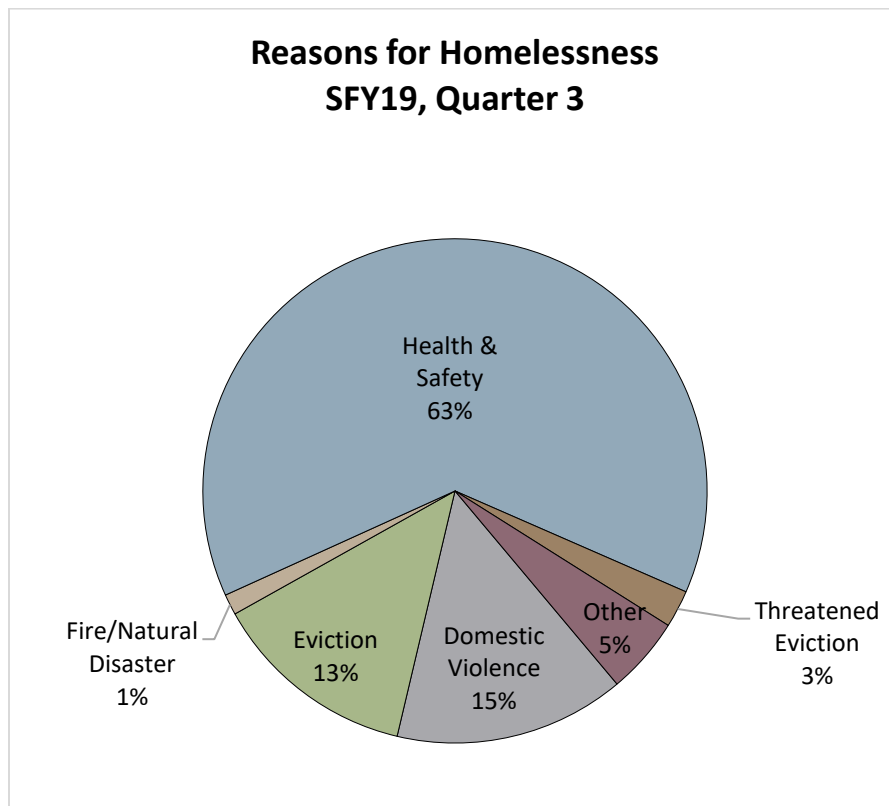
Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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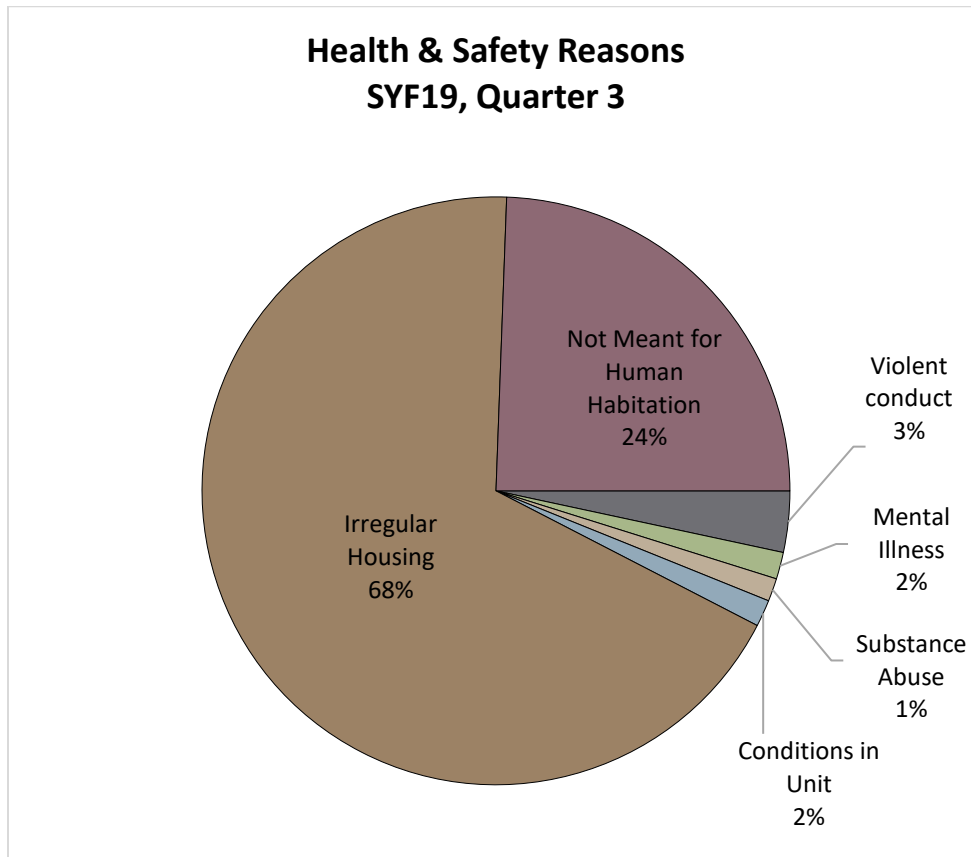
**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2019 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 2019 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Total	750	100%	781	264	232	254	2,479	100%
Domestic Violence	111	15%	121	42	31	38	389	16%
Eviction	99	13%	98	28	38	33	307	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	10	1%	3	2	4	4	24	1%
Health & Safety	475	63%	487	176	136	163	1,559	63%
Threatened Eviction	18	2%	16	4	10	4	54	2%
Other	37	5%	56	12	13	12	146	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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% Exits
Total	760	773	242	239	279	2,357	100%
Abandoned	73	104	28	23	22	341	14%
Criminal Activity	2	2	2	0	0	5	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	448	429	129	149	170	1291	55%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	101	95	33	31	37	288	12%
Ineligible	15	16	3	8	4	53	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	6	6	2	1	3	17	1%
Non-compliance	20	16	5	7	8	53	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	58	76	27	11	20	226	10%
Other/Unknown	37	29	13	9	15	83	4%

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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 2019 YTD	
			Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% Exits
Total Families Receiving Subsidies	547	520	165	182	200	1,567	100%
ESG	7	3	0	3	4	15	1%
HomeBASE	430	429	129	131	170	1,286	82%
HUD Continuum of Care	18	19	5	5	8	50	3%
MRVP	21	18	4	12	5	52	3%
Private Subsidized Housing	44	35	13	14	17	119	8%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	31	32	8	10	13	98	6%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	34	26	10	12	12	81	5%
Other Public Housing	50	35	18	14	18	114	7%
Transportation	9	5	2	5	2	21	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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 19 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Total Families	188	152	70	63	55	500
Strategic Prevention Support	12	10	5	5	2	33
HomeBASE Diversion	116	92	40	40	36	293
EA Shelter/Hotel	60	50	25	18	17	174

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 3, SFY 2019	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,547	99%
Hotels/Motels	28	1%
All Families	3,575	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-47	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-1.3%	

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 3**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,058	369
Cost Per Episode	\$150	\$308,700	\$55,350

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

HomeBASE Caseload and Payments

	SFY 2019 Quarter 3
HomeBASE Household Assistance	
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	3,599
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	728
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	2,871
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 3 years of Receiving HB	63
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$2,411
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$50
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$10,000

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 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2019 Quarter 3			SFY 2019 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Families Applying	2,455		2,556	906	885	664	6,786	
Families Approved	1,950	100%	2,193	739	664	547	5,598	100%
Asked to Leave	655	34%	768	251	228	176	1,862	33%
Domestic Violence	42	2%	63	7	19	16	150	3%
Eviction (Private)	570	29%	579	221	197	152	1509	27%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	335	17%	344	150	102	83	914	16%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	37	2%	23	10	11	16	83	1%
Foreclosure	22	1%	34	13	4	5	69	1%
Health and Safety	94	5%	65	33	32	29	195	3%
Severe Overcrowding	35	2%	27	10	7	18	89	2%
Utility Shut-Off	32	2%	187	9	11	12	421	8%
Other Crisis	128	7%	103	35	53	40	306	5%

RAFT Assistance Spending Quarter 3, SFY 2019

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	1,863
Average	\$2,649
Minimum	\$152
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$1,255,610	525	\$2,392
15-30% AMI	\$1,854,018	708	\$2,619
30-50% AMI	\$1,663,398	570	\$2,918

Note: Income level was unknown for 60 recipients due to a change in data collection processes.