

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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

Fiscal Year 2020, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development  
May 22, 2020



**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA, HomeBASE and RAFT Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2020**

## Emergency Assistance (EA)

| <b>Disability Accommodation</b>                                 |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of Families who Applied for a Disability Accommodation   | 260 |
| Mental Health   | 67  |
| Physical Disability   | 61  |
| Developmental, Cognitive, or Behavioral                         | 59  |
| Combination of Disability Needs                                 | 44  |
| Disability not Identified in Request                            | 29  |
| Families Approved for Disability Accommodation Waiting Transfer | 67  |
| Average Days Until Transfer for Disability Accommodation        | 15  |

| <b>Families Placed More Than 20 Miles From Their Home Communities</b>                 |     |
|---|-----|
| Families in EA Shelters/Hotels Located More Than 20 Miles From Their Home Communities | 147 |
| Average Days Placed Outside 20 Miles  | 218 |

**Notes:**

Data indicate families identified outside of 20 miles as of December 21, 2019.

Data do not include families whose home community is outside of Massachusetts, who are fleeing domestic violence, or who requested to remain in their current placement.

Average days placed outside of 20 miles is based on families who transferred or exited during the quarter.

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## HomeBASE

|                                    | SFY 2020 Quarter 3 |            | SFY2020 Quarter 3 |     |     | SFY2020 YTD |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-------------|------------|
|                                    | # Families         | % of Total | Jan               | Feb | Mar | # Families  | % of Total |
| <b>Families Served by HomeBASE</b> |                    |            |                   |     |     |             |            |
| Families Beginning HomeBASE        | 807                | 100%       | 276               | 270 | 261 | 2,503       | 100%       |
| Shelter Diversions                 | 233                | 29%        | 84                | 74  | 75  | 658         | 26%        |
| Exits from Shelter                 | 574                | 71%        | 192               | 196 | 186 | 1,845       | 74%        |

| <b>HomeBASE Household Assistance</b>                             | <b>SFY 2020 Quarter 3</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Families Served by HB HomeBASE                                   | 3,634                     |
| Families Beginning HB during Quarter                             | 807                       |
| Families Continuing HB during Quarter                            | 2,827                     |
| Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 3 years of Receiving HB | 61                        |
| Average HomeBASE Payment   | \$2,565                   |
| Minimum HomeBASE Payment   | \$96                      |
| 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         | FY20 Quarter 3 |             | Previous Quarter | FY20 Quarter 3 |            |            | FY20 YTD     |             |
|---|----------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | # Families     | % of Total  |                  | Jan            | Feb        | Mar        | # Families   | % of Total  |
| <b>Total Applying</b>                   | <b>1,560</b>   |             | <b>2,268</b>     | <b>516</b>     | <b>581</b> | <b>463</b> | <b>5,772</b> |             |
| <b>Total Approved</b>                   | <b>1,446</b>   | <b>100%</b> | <b>2,115</b>     | <b>485</b>     | <b>543</b> | <b>418</b> | <b>5,355</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Upstream rent arrears-public/subsidized | 80             | 6%          | 97               | 22             | 28         | 30         | 264          | 5%          |
| Upstream rent arrears-market rent       | 197            | 14%         | 231              | 49             | 85         | 63         | 580          | 11%         |
| Upstream mortgage arrears               | 27             | 2%          | 17               | 7              | 13         | 7          | 58           | 1%          |
| Doubled up and asked to leave           | 396            | 27%         | 621              | 150            | 155        | 91         | 1,524        | 28%         |
| Domestic violence                       | 36             | 2%          | 50               | 12             | 13         | 11         | 116          | 2%          |
| Eviction-public/subsidized              | 183            | 13%         | 258              | 61             | 71         | 51         | 625          | 12%         |
| Eviction-market rent                    | 305            | 21%         | 427              | 117            | 98         | 90         | 1127         | 21%         |
| Foreclosure                             | 8              | 1%          | 20               | 3              | 4          | 1          | 59           | 1%          |
| Fire/flood/natural disaster             | 10             | 1%          | 10               | 2              | 6          | 2          | 37           | 1%          |
| Health/safety                           | 89             | 6%          | 111              | 24             | 33         | 32         | 305          | 6%          |
| Overcrowding                            | 29             | 2%          | 23               | 9              | 10         | 10         | 75           | 1%          |
| Utility shutoff                         | 23             | 2%          | 153              | 8              | 7          | 8          | 343          | 6%          |
| Other                                   | 63             | 4%          | 97               | 21             | 20         | 22         | 242          | 5%          |

| <b>RAFT Payments</b> |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Total Families       | 1,872   |
| Average              | \$2,623 |
| Minimum              | \$97    |
| Maximum              | \$4,000 |

| <b>Income level</b> | <b>Total Assistance</b> | <b># Families</b> | <b>Average Per Family</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 0-15% AMI           | \$1,166,365             | 496               | \$2,352                   |
| 15-30% AMI          | \$1,853,248             | 709               | \$2,614                   |
| 30-50% AMI          | \$1,846,112             | 653               | \$2,827                   |
| 50-60% AMI*         | \$26,574                | 8                 | \$3,322                   |

**Note:** The FY20 RAFT budget language authorized an increase in the income limit up to 60% for households using RAFT to flee domestic violence.