



# HomeBASE

A benefit program to help families who are eligible for EA Emergency Family Shelter to quickly find stable housing

## What is HomeBASE?

- A benefit up to \$30,000 toward rent (and some related expenses) over two years, with the possibility of up to \$15,000 for a third year of help.
- **You will pay at least 30% of your gross monthly income toward rent.** How much of the rent you pay is unique to your Re-Housing Plan. It can change as your circumstances change.
- The goal is to stretch the benefit as long as possible, while you stabilize your income.
- **You don't need to have income now to get started using HomeBASE.** You can work with your case manager on increasing your income once you are safely housed.



### Find a Home

#### Rent Your Own Apartment

- **HomeBASE can help pay your rent.**
- Payments are made directly to the property owner or landlord.

#### Live with a Host

- **HomeBASE can pay a homeowner or renter that you know to host you.**
- HomeBASE may cover up to 50% of the sublet rental cost or utilities/mortgage.
- If you plan to live with a renter, they will need written and notarized landlord permission.
- If you plan to live with a homeowner, they will need to sign a host agreement to ensure safe conditions and enough bedrooms.

#### Co-Share an Apartment

- **HomeBASE can also help to pay for rent and utilities, if you share an apartment.**
- The EA family receiving HomeBASE is responsible for paying an equal or lesser proportion of costs (including move-in and monthly rent costs) based on the number of households sharing the unit. If there are three families for instance, the EA family would pay up to 1/3 of costs.



### Get Support on Your Goals

#### Furniture, Utilities and Debt

- **HomeBASE can pay up to \$5,000 for outstanding rent or utilities arrears,** if the debt is stopping you from signing a new lease.
- \$2,500 is available to help your family buy beds and/or a kitchen table and chairs.

#### Moving

- HomeBASE can help make your move possible, by paying moving costs, including...
- In state move: first, last, security deposit costs, moving vans, bus tickets, (+ ongoing rental assistance for up to 3 years)
- Out-of-state move (not out of country): first, last and security, bus or air travel costs; no ongoing rental assistance

#### Support on Your Housing Goals

- While you participate in HomeBASE, a case manager will meet with you to help you tackle any challenges to your housing stability.



#### Public Housing and Vouchers

For state public housing and vouchers (MRVP), you maintain your homeless status when you accept HomeBASE. You do not for federally funded units.





# HomeBASE

HomeBASE can adapt to your family's goals and situation

## How can families use HomeBASE?

There are a lot of creative uses for HomeBASE beyond help renting your own apartment. If you have questions about how HomeBASE can help your family, talk to your Case Manager or Re-Housing Worker or visit:

[www.mass.gov/hlc/homebase](http://www.mass.gov/hlc/homebase)



### Move in with a Host

Courtney was staying in emergency family shelter with her 2 children when she learned about HomeBASE. She is now moving in with a friend's family to share their apartment with the landlord's permission. HomeBASE funding will help Courtney cover up to 50% of the sublet rental cost.



### Help with Moving Costs

Daniel and his son were referred to HomeBASE by the shelter where they were staying after facing eviction. With HomeBASE funding, they were able to pay for plane tickets to Florida where he can find work. HomeBASE will also pay for first month's rent, last month's rent and the security deposit on an apartment in Florida.



### Co-Share an Apartment with another EA Family

Sara and Maria met in EA Shelter. They both have one young child. Both are interested in living in the Worcester area. Using HomeBASE, they rent a four-bedroom apartment together. HomeBASE will cover up to half of the rent for each of them.

**If you are in a housing crisis and need help:** If you are facing eviction, but not yet homelessness, contact RAFT at [www.mass.gov/housinghelp](http://www.mass.gov/housinghelp) or Dial 211 for information about programs in your area or visit [Mass211.org](http://Mass211.org)

**If a possible landlord wants more information on HomeBASE** send them to: [www.mass.gov/HomebaseForLandlords](http://www.mass.gov/HomebaseForLandlords)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities

Division of Housing Stabilization | HomeBASE Flyer | Last Updated: 04/24/2024 | ENGLISH

