



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Maura T. Healey, Governor ♦ Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Edward M. Augustus Jr., Secretary

## HomeBASE

### What is HomeBASE?

Financial benefit of up to \$45,000.00 over a 36-month period to help families experiencing homelessness stabilize their housing situation.

### What are Allowable Expenses Under HomeBASE?

- First month's rent
- Last month's rent
- Security deposit
- Broker's fee
- Bonus payment to landlord (equal to one-month rent)
- Monthly rental stipend (*only in MA and only for housing where the monthly rent does not go up or down when household income changes*)
- Relocation out of state
- Furniture (*up to \$2,500.00*)
- Moving expenses
- Utility and rental arrears (*up to \$5,000.00*)
- Education or training activities to further economic stability (*as approved by EOHLC case by case*)

### Who is Eligible for HomeBASE?

Families experiencing homelessness who have been determined eligible for EA Emergency Family Shelter, or placed into EA Emergency Family Shelter, are eligible for HomeBASE.

Families placed into EA Family Shelter who are in 'presumptive' status do not need to have their presumptive status 'cured' before receiving HomeBASE.

EA Emergency Family Shelter is a statewide program managed by EOHLC's Division of Housing Stabilization (DHS) through a select number of not-for-profit agencies, providing temporary shelter accommodations to eligible families with children under 21 or pregnant persons.

To be determined eligible for EA Emergency Family Shelter, households that include children under 21 or pregnant persons must (1) have an income that does not exceed 115% of the Federal Poverty Level, (2) have assets that do not exceed \$5,000.00, and (3) meet one of the following reasons for homeless:

- No-fault fire, flood, natural disaster, condemnation, or foreclosure
- Fleeing domestic violence
- No-fault eviction or excused fault eviction
- Child is exposed to a substantial health and safety risk

Other eligibility requirements also apply. Please contact [virginia.k.griffin@mass.gov](mailto:virginia.k.griffin@mass.gov) if you have any questions about EA Emergency Family Shelter eligibility.”

### **How to Apply for EA Family Shelter?**

EA Emergency Family Shelter eligibility is screened and determined by a DHS Homeless Coordinator. A [DHS Homeless Coordinator may take applications in person at one of 10 regional Department of Transitional Assistance \(DTA\) office locations OR by phone 866-584-0653.](#)

### **How to Access HomeBASE?**

There are 3 access points for HomeBASE: (1) at point of EA application approval, (2) at point of exiting EA Family Shelter and (3) at point of exiting a Domestic Violence or Bureau of Substance Abuse Services shelter program.

#### **1. Point of EA application approval:**

If determined eligible for EA Emergency Family Shelter by a DHS Homeless Coordinator, but not yet placed into EA shelter, the household will have an option to access HomeBASE through a Diversion service provider.

That service provider will assist with housing search, the application for access to the HomeBASE financial benefit when an apartment is secured and connect the household to a Regional Administering Agency (RAA) for continued stabilization supports post move into the new apartment.

#### **2. Point of exiting EA Family Shelter:**

If determined fully or presumptively eligible for EA Emergency Family Shelter by a DHS Homeless Coordinator, the household will be placed into temporary shelter accommodation.

Staff at the EA Emergency Family Shelter site will be available to assist with housing search, the application for access to the HomeBASE financial benefit when an apartment is secured and provide continued stabilization supports post move into the new apartment.

#### **3. Point of exiting a Domestic Violence or Bureau of Substance Abuse Services shelter program:**

Households currently experiencing homelessness within a DPH funded Domestic Violence (DV) or Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) shelter program may have an eligibility screening completed by a DHS Homeless Coordinator for access to HomeBASE.

If determined eligible for HomeBASE (meeting EA Emergency Family Shelter eligibility criteria as stated above) the household will be connected to an RAA for assistance with housing search, the application for access to the HomeBASE financial benefit and provide continued stabilization supports post move into the new apartment.

DV and BSAS program staff looking for more information the referral process through this Side Door should contact Bonnie Caldwell ([bonnie.caldwell@mass.gov](mailto:bonnie.caldwell@mass.gov)) or Virginia Griffin ([virginia.k.griffin@mass.gov](mailto:virginia.k.griffin@mass.gov)).