

Last Updated: January 29, 2021

RAFT Policy Guidelines Summary

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition



RAFT Policy Guidelines

The key updates to the RAFT program (as of 1/11/2021) are outlined below. Read the entire Administrative Plan to gain a thorough understanding of the RAFT program policies.

1. Maximum benefit level increased

The new maximum benefit limit is **\$10,000** for all types of RAFT and housing crisis options



There is no longer a combined benefit limit between RAFT and HomeBASE

2. Sustainability requirements no longer in effect



No more “6-month rule”

No more “presumption of future sustainability”

3. Simplified housing crisis list

Now categorized into 10 groupings:

- 1) Pre-court rental assistance
- 2) Eviction
- 3) Overcrowding
- 4) Health & safety
- 5) Pre-foreclosure mortgage assistance
- 6) Foreclosure
- 7) Domestic violence
- 8) Fire/flood/natural disaster
- 9) Utility shutoff
- 10) Other crisis that will result in imminent housing loss



4. Expansion of all housing crisis types

All eligible housing crisis options receive the same RAFT benefit



Benefits can be used to:

- a) stay in current housing, or
- b) move to new housing

5. Automatic income eligibility

Income limits are 50% area median income (AMI), bumped to 60% if affected by domestic violence



DTA/MassHealth recipients are automatically income-eligible

Non-DTA/MassHealth households must verify income

6. Introduction of the Rental Assistance Processing (RAP) Center



Assist RAAs with overflow and application backlog

****Additional guidance will be communicated by DHCD as needed.***