



# Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Policy Overview

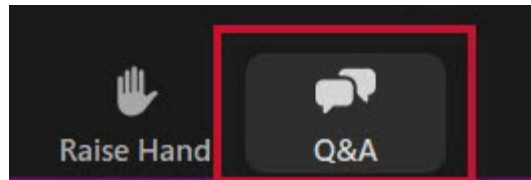
*RAA Office Hours*

April 15, 2022

## Asking Questions

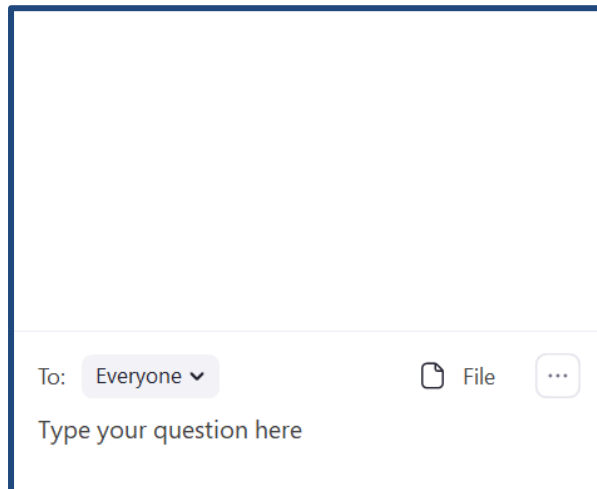
**We will be monitoring the Q&A for questions**

1



Click “Q&A” to submit a question (or “Raise Hand” to share a verbal question at designated breaks)

2

A screenshot of a Q&A submission form. It features a large white text area for entering a question. Below this area is a header bar containing a 'To:' dropdown menu set to 'Everyone', a 'File' button with a document icon, and a three-dot menu icon. At the bottom of the form, there is a placeholder text 'Type your question here'.

Enter your question into the “Q&A” box

We will follow up with answers to any questions that we don’t get to during the session

# THIS CALL IS BEING RECORDED





# WELCOME

# MEET YOUR FACILITATORS



**Amy Mullen**



**Jestina Walcott**



**Natalie Goodman**



**Tanya Raymond**



**Berkley Jenkins**

## Purpose



Discuss **RAFT policy overview** and **answer questions to continue to support community members** through the closure of ERAP

## Goal



Provide RAA staff with **guidance and continued support** related to RAFT and other EDI programs

# Our Journey Today 1 HOUR



**Welcome, Goals, & Objectives**

**5 mins**



**Helpful Reminders | ERAP to RAFT**

**10 mins**



**RAFT Policy Overview & Details**



**Questions**

**45 mins**



**RAA Support & Resources**



# IMPORTANT REMINDERS



## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 2022

- ✓ There will be no changes to the Central App until after April 15, 2022
- ✓ RAAs should continue using ERAP whenever possible for all applications received on or before April 15, 2022

## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEGINNING APRIL 16, 2022

- ✓ Starting at 12:01 AM on April 16, 2022, the Central App will notify applicants of the \$7,000 limit
- ✓ Applications will be stamped with “RAFT” on the application PDF that is generated from the Central App
- ✓ RAFT policy guidance should be referenced when reviewing new applications



# RAFT POLICY OVERVIEW

# RAFT POLICY OVERVIEW



The RAFT rules from January 1, 2022 remain in place related to the following:



**HOUSING ELIGIBILITY**



**BENEFIT CAP**



**ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS**



**INCOME VERIFICATION**



**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**



# ELIGIBILITY

## Households must meet certain eligibility criteria to be eligible for RAFT

---

**1**

---

Risk of homelessness/housing  
instability

**2**

---

Currently renting or  
moving to a new rental

**3**

---

Income at or below  
50% of AMI

# HOMELESSNESS / HOUSING INSTABILITY CATEGORIES (“HOUSING CRISES”)



- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| ✓ | <b>PRE-COURT RENTAL ARREARS</b>               | ✓ | <b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>                                      |
| ✓ | <b>EVICTED</b>                                | ✓ | <b>FIRE/FLOOD/NATURAL DISASTER</b>                            |
| ✓ | <b>DOUBLED UP AND MUST LEAVE/OVERCROWDING</b> | ✓ | <b>UTILITY SHUTOFF</b>  |
| ✓ | <b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>                    | ✓ | <b>OTHER CRISIS THAT WILL RESULT IN IMMINENT HOUSING LOSS</b> |



# ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

# ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS



## UP TO \$7,000 PER HOUSEHOLD MAY BE USED FOR

- ✓ Rent arrears
- ✓ 1 prospective rent payment (stipend)
- ✓ Start-up costs (first, last, security)
- ✓ Moving costs (up to \$5,000)
- ✓ Utility arrears (minimum required to get service restored or protected)
- ✓ Furniture (up to \$1,000)

## FOR HOUSEHOLDS MOVING TO CO-HOUSING SITUATIONS, RAFT MAY COVER

- ✓ Partial rent payments on behalf of primary tenant, paid to landlord
- ✓ Utility payments on behalf of primary tenant, paid to utility company





# QUESTIONS



# RAA SUPPORT, READINESS, & NEXT STEPS

In advance of this policy shift, DHCD will host RAFT trainings to provide policy guidance and refreshers for RAA staff. These sessions will be recorded.

---



**RAFT Q&A** | Friday, April 22, 2022 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

1

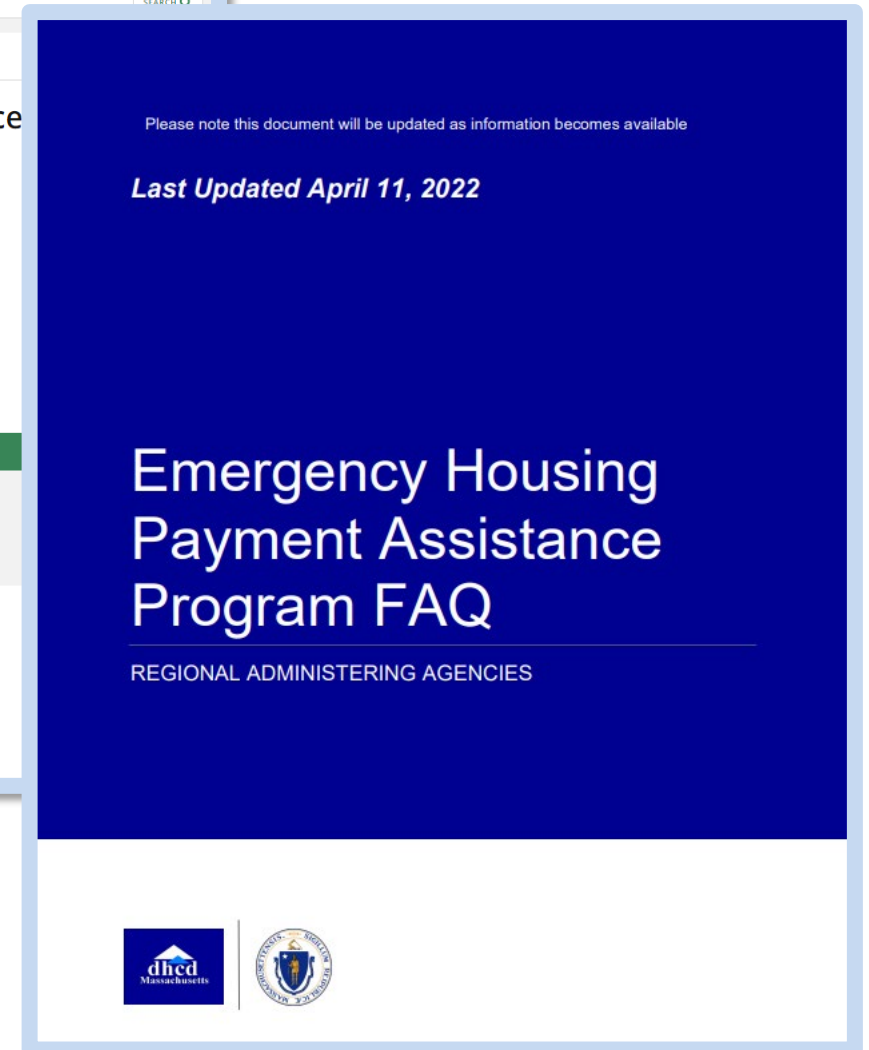
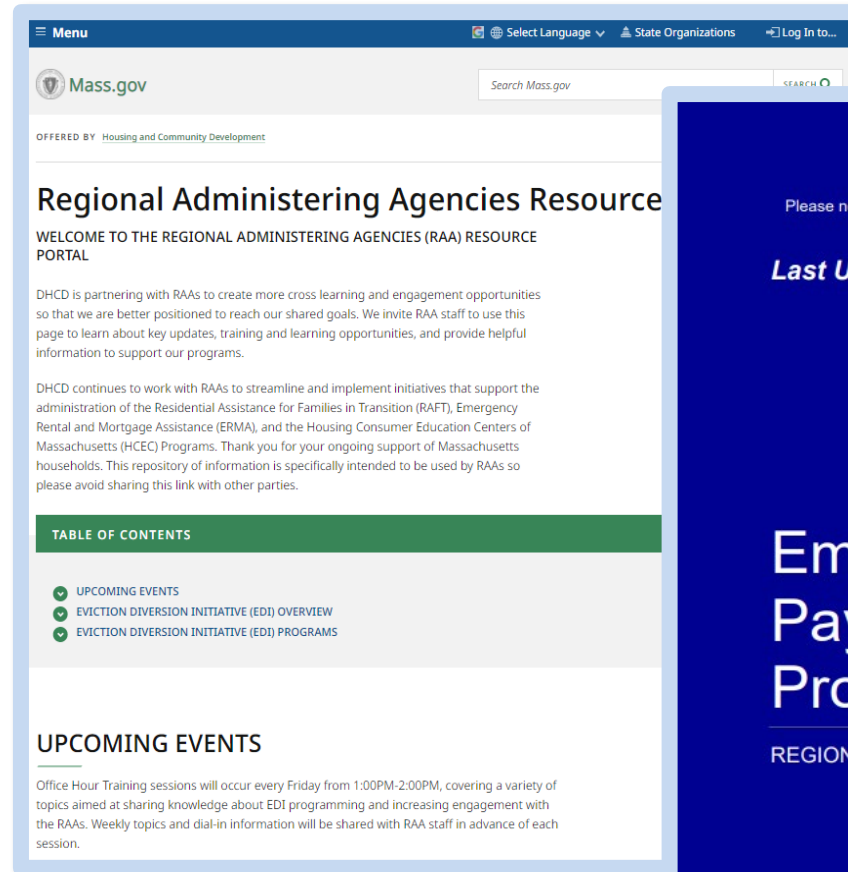
## [RAA Resource Portal](#)

Central resource to provide RAA staff with key updates, training and learning opportunities, and helpful information to support programs

2

## [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Frequently asked questions that provide a policy overview and concise program guidance.





## Further Questions

Direct questions to your supervisor and then contact the RAA support inbox ([dhcdraaraft@mass.gov](mailto:dhcdraaraft@mass.gov)) as a point of escalations for questions. A member of the RAA Support Team will respond.

- ***Time-sensitive Questions:*** Critical questions that require responses within 24hrs should be submitted with a subject line that includes “**URGENT.**”



## Best Practice

Please **specify the program** that you are reaching out about to ensure that the DHCD RAA Support team is best positioned to provide policy guidance.

---

# THANK YOU!

