



Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Policy Overview

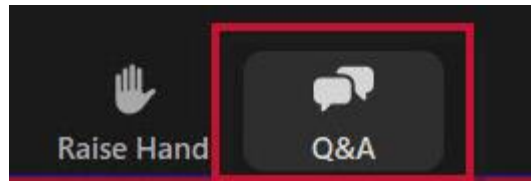
RAA Office Hours

April 22, 2022

Asking Questions

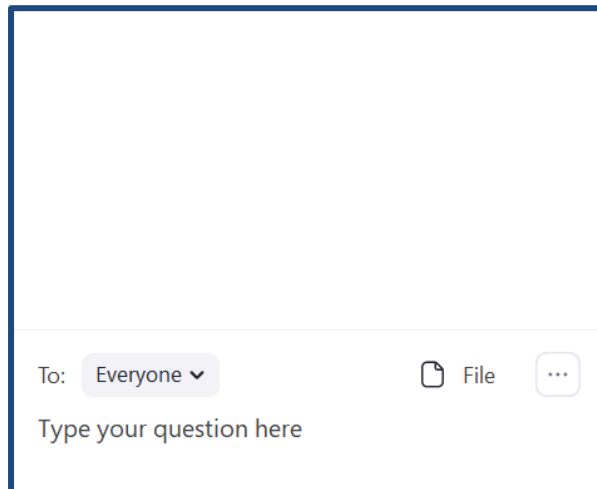
We will be monitoring the Q&A for questions

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 the text area, there is a 'To:' dropdown menu set to 'Everyone', a 'File' button with a document icon, and a three-dot menu button. At the bottom, 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

15 mins



RAA Support & Resources



RAFT Policy Overview & Details



Questions

40 mins



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

ERAP PROGRAM CLOSURE GUIDANCE



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 PROGRAM RESOURCES



1

[RAA Resource Portal](#)

Link to central resource that provides RAA staff with key updates, training and learning opportunities, and helpful information to support programs

2

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Link to frequently asked questions that provide a policy overview and concise program guidance

3

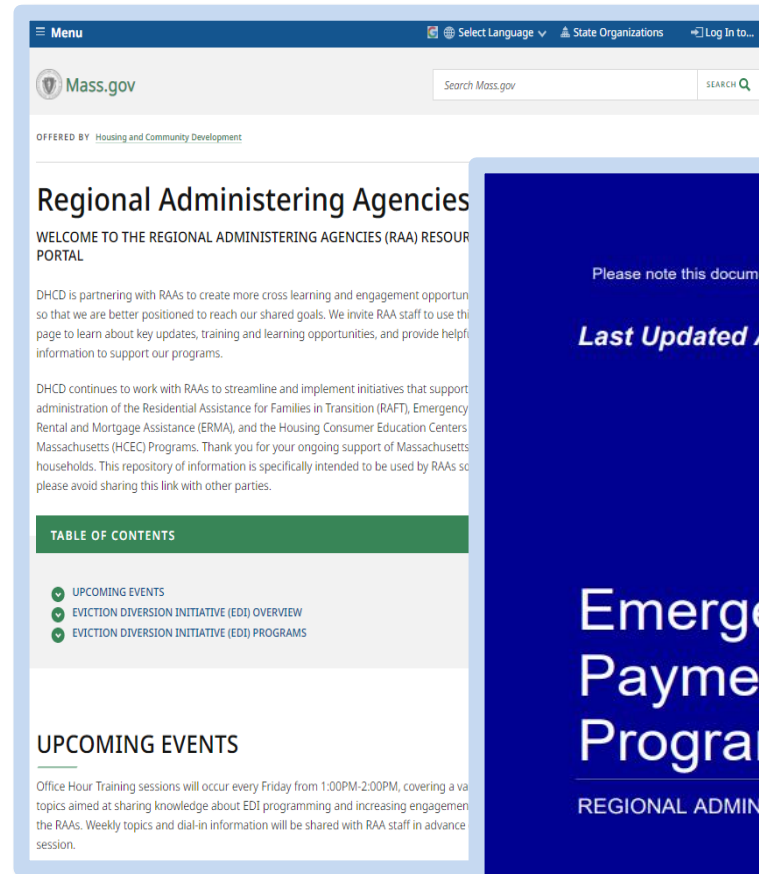
[RAA Office Hours 04.15.2022](#) [RAFT Q&A](#)

Link to recording for first question and answer session

4

[RAA Office Hours 04.08.2022](#) [RAFT Refresher](#)

Link to recording for RAFT refresher training providing and overview of RAFT policy



Please note this document will be updated as information becomes available

Last Updated April 11, 2022

Emergency Housing Payment Assistance Program FAQ

REGIONAL ADMINISTERING AGENCIES





RAFT POLICY OVERVIEW

RAFT POLICY OVERVIEW



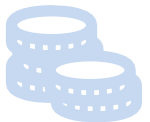
The RAFT rules from January 1, 2022 remain in place related to the following:



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”)



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



QUESTIONS | ELIGIBILITY



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 | ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS



QUESTIONS | BENEFIT CAP



QUESTIONS | INCOME VERIFICATION



QUESTIONS | REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION



QUESTIONS | UTILITIES



QUESTIONS | STIPENDS



RAA SUPPORT, READINESS, & NEXT STEPS



Community Mediation and Referrals | Friday, April 29 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM



Further Questions

Direct questions to your supervisor and then contact the RAA support inbox (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!

