



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Jennifer D. Maddox, Undersecretary

To: Regional RAFT Administering Agencies  
From: Amy Mullen, Program Director, DHCD  
Date: December 30, 2022  
Subject: Limits on Accessing RAFT Following Reallocated ERA1 and Reallocated ERA2 Payments

### Summary

The purpose of this memo is to clarify that households who received reallocated ERA1 and reallocated ERA2 payments are considered to have received RAFT funds for the purposes of determining program eligibility. A household may not receive more than the RAFT program limit (currently \$10,000 per household per 12-month period) combined among reallocated ERA1, reallocated ERA2, and RAFT.

### Background

In 2022, DHCD received three rounds of reallocated Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds from the U.S. Treasury. These funds were added to the existing RAFT program. Way Finders and the Rental Assistance Processing (RAP) Center processed these funds on behalf of RAFT-eligible households who also met eligibility for either ERA1 or ERA2, depending on the reallocated funding source.

Because DHCD is required to track reallocated ERA1 and ERA2 funds separately from RAFT for the purposes of reporting to U.S. Treasury, Way Finders and the RAP Center processed these funds under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) in HAPPY, using the increments shown below.

Program	Increment	Increment Description	Processor
ERAP	20	ERA1, First Round	Way Finders, Agency 5
ERAP	21	ERA1, Second Round	RAP Center, Agency 26
ERAP	22	ERA2, First Round	RAP Center, Agency 26

Because reallocated ERA funds are being used in accordance with the RAFT benefit guidelines, households receiving reallocated ERA funds are subject to a \$10,000 limit between reallocated ERA1, reallocated ERA2, and the RAFT program. In other words, a household who receives \$10,000 from reallocated ERA (1 or 2) will be considered to have received \$10,000 from the RAFT program and will not be eligible for additional funds until the 12-month window has passed.

### Action Needed by RAAs

RAAs should ensure that all staff who process RAFT cases or determine eligibility are aware that any payments made out of the increments listed above will count against a household's available RAFT benefit limit, if the household is returning for RAFT assistance within 12 months from the date of the reallocated ERA1 or reallocated ERA2 payment(s).

Please contact [amy.mullen2@mass.gov](mailto:amy.mullen2@mass.gov) with questions about this memo.