

# How to prepare to safely exit EA Family Shelter

## Why?

Families have a limited amount of time they can stay in EA Family Shelter.

Make an exit plan with your provider. No matter what your exit date is, **your family should look for stable housing options outside of EA Family Shelter.**



## Plan

Work with your assigned Housing Search Worker & Case Manager to create a plan for finding new housing (your Re-Housing Plan).

Learn more about the  
Re-Housing Process using the QR Code  
or at **[mass.gov/EABridgeRehousing](https://mass.gov/EABridgeRehousing)**:



## Act

Find permanent housing and complete applications for rental assistance programs like HomeBASE.

*(View other side for details)*



## Exit

Move out of shelter and into new housing.

# Resources



## HomeBASE

Helping families pay for rent or a room in a house in Massachusetts

### Resources to help pay for housing:



**HomeBASE:** Families who are eligible for EA Shelter are eligible for the HomeBASE program. HomeBASE can help pay part of your rent and some other costs, up to **\$30,000 over two years, with the possibility of a third year of help.** If you qualify, you can search for housing (**which can take several weeks**) and then use HomeBASE to move in.

Learn more about HomeBASE online at [mass.gov/homebase](https://mass.gov/homebase) or with this QR code:



### What can HomeBASE pay for?



First and last month's rent, security deposit, and broker's fee for a new apartment



Monthly payments to help with rent for up to three years in your own apartment or a shared space



Furniture, moving expenses, and utilities, based on families' needs



Assistance to move somewhere else



## Support Services

Additional support available to families

### Your provider at your shelter site can help you access the following support services:



Securing permanent, stable housing



Enrolling in state benefit programs like food assistance



Finding job placements and getting work authorization



Enrolling in English classes and building necessary skills

### You can find additional resources by going to Mass.gov and searching for the following terms:

- HomeBASE

- Housing Navigator (finding affordable housing)

- RAFT (emergency help for housing costs)

- You can also go to Findhelp.org for additional resources (Food, Housing, Transportation)

- Re-ticketing

- Mass 211 (childcare, food, transportation, utility assistance: [mass211.org](https://mass211.org))

- Family Resource Centers (support families in accessing basic needs and resources: [frcma.org](https://frcma.org))

Find more information online at [mass.gov/emergency-housing-assistance](https://mass.gov/emergency-housing-assistance) or with this QR code:



## Reminders

Before you leave shelter



### Mail

Stop your mail and packages coming to the shelter once you have found housing. Update your mailing address to a PO box, your new apartment, or a trusted family member/friend. You can update your address on a computer or phone at [www.usps.com/manage/forward.htm](https://www.usps.com/manage/forward.htm)



### School

Families should work with their school district's homeless liaisons regarding their child's education rights under the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act. The homeless liaison will help you understand and determine your student's best educational interests. This includes assistance with transferring enrollment to a new school if moving to a new town or city or arranging transportation to the school where your child is currently enrolled and attending.



### Packing

You are responsible for providing all bags, suitcases, and/or boxes needed to move. HomeBASE funding can be used to assist with moving costs. You cannot take things from the shelter that are the shelter's property.



### Employment

You should update your employer if you are moving or need a transfer to a new work location. You should also inform your employer in advance if you need to take days off to move.

