

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2018, Second Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

January 26, 2018



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018

In FY18 Quarter 2, 1,978 families applied for EA, five percent fewer than the previous quarter (2,087 families) and five percent fewer than FY17 Quarter 2. 897 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 2, six percent fewer than the previous quarter (957 families) and three percent fewer families than FY17 Quarter 2. Also in FY18 Quarter 2, 326 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. This represented 27 percent of families entering the system. Another 1,060 families were approved for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, which provides a benefit of up to \$4,000 to families at risk of homelessness to assist them in maintaining or securing housing.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 370 families in Quarter 2, accounting for 41 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 16 percent and the Brockton office at 8 percent.

Sixty-three percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while domestic violence was the reason for homelessness for 15 percent of families, eviction for 11 percent, and threatened eviction for 3 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 60 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Thirty-two percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Five percent of families who entered due to a health and safety reason were experiencing problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness), while the remaining three percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units.

During Quarter 2, 831 families exited the EA system. 482 (58 percent) of the families exiting left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

The quarter ended with a total EA caseload of 3,592 families with two percent of these families placed in overflow hotels/motels.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**

EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2018 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
Families Applying to EA	1,978	2,087	799	679	844	3,933
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,223	1,216	423	394	406	2,439
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	897	957	295	302	300	1,854
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	73%	79%	70%	77%	74%	76%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	326	259	128	92	106	585
% Entering HomeBASE	27%	21%	30%	23%	26%	24%

Note: Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

Sources: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

EA Health & Safety Assessments

	SFY 2018 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	697	808	289	197	211	1,505
Families Determined at Risk	609	726	260	169	180	1,335
% Referrals at Risk	90%	90%	91%	91%	87%	90%
Shelter Diversions	88	82	29	28	31	170
% Referrals Diverted	10%	10%	9%	9%	13%	10%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**

EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2018 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	897	100%	957	295	302	300	1,854	100%
Boston	370	41%	373	113	123	134	743	39%
Brockton	71	8%	88	26	28	17	159	9%
Fall River	5	1%	6	2	2	1	11	1%
Fitchburg	7	1%	7	2	1	4	14	1%
Framingham	6	1%	15	2	3	1	21	2%
Greenfield	4	0%	9	1	2	1	13	1%
Holyoke	1	0%	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
Hyannis	13	1%	11	2	5	6	24	1%
Lawrence	58	6%	46	18	20	20	104	5%
Lowell	13	1%	17	3	6	4	30	2%
Malden	3	<1%	3	3	0	0	6	2%
New Bedford	41	5%	49	13	13	15	90	5%
North Shore/Salem	32	4%	53	8	11	13	85	6%
Pittsfield/North Adams	6	1%	1	2	4	0	7	<1%
Plymouth	1	<1%	3	1	0	0	4	2%
Revere/Chelsea	53	6%	58	18	17	18	111	6%
Southbridge	7	1%	5	6	0	1	12	2%
Springfield	141	16%	158	59	43	39	299	17%
Taunton	1	<1%	3	0	1	0	4	2%
Worcester	64	7%	52	16	22	26	116	5%

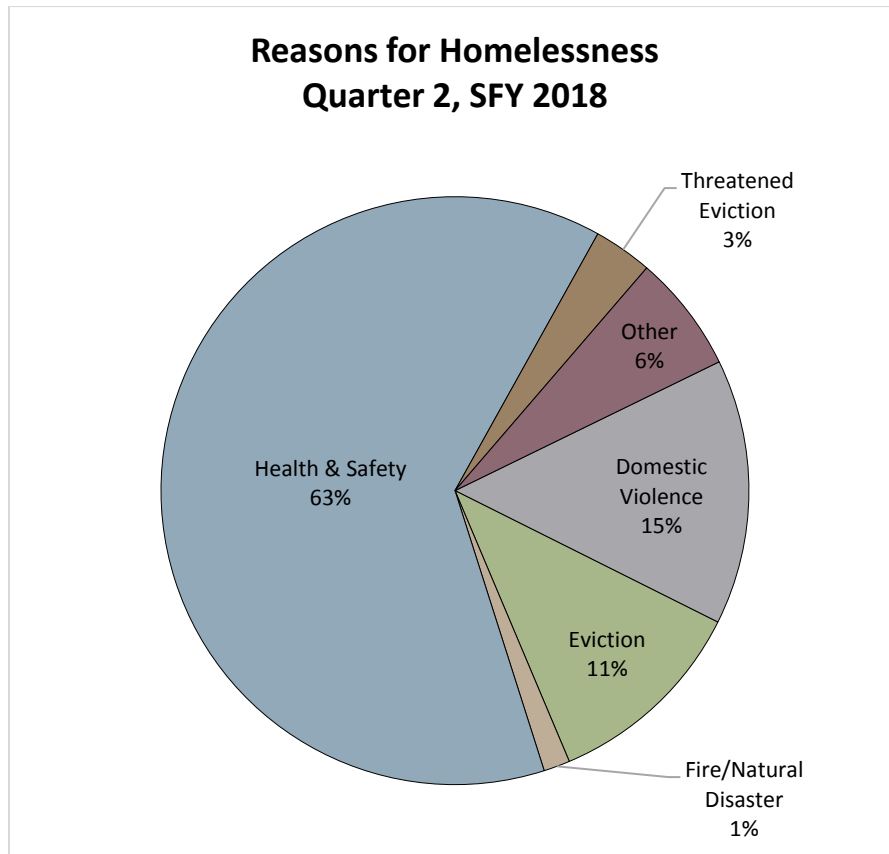
Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**

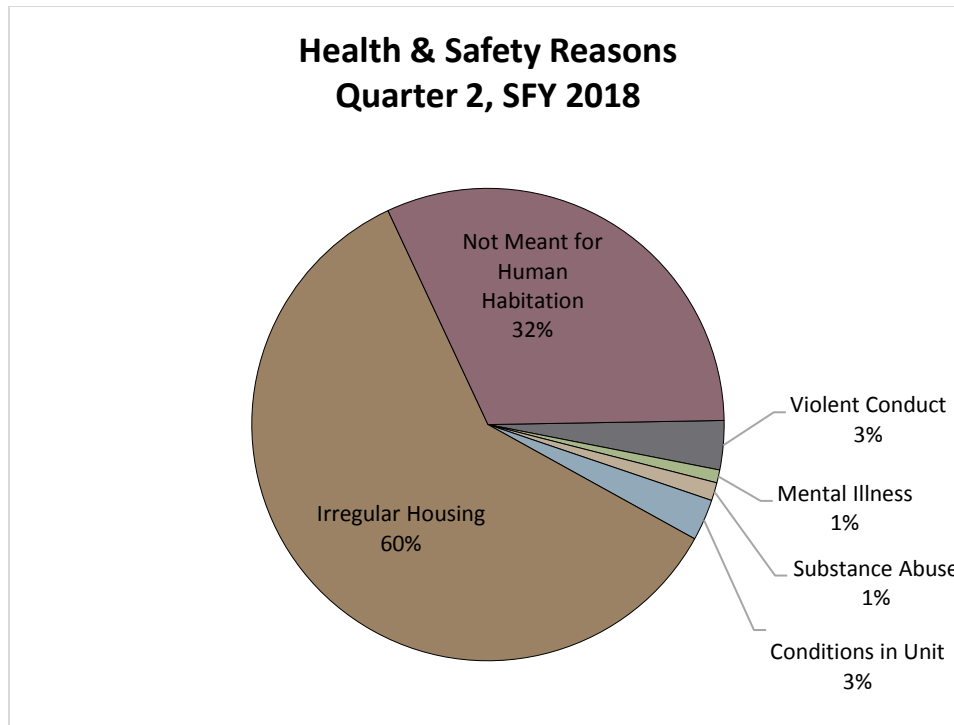
**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2018 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
Total	897	100%	957	295	302	300	1,854	100%
Domestic Violence	131	15%	144	43	42	46	275	15%
Eviction	101	11%	105	37	33	31	206	11%
Fire/Natural Disaster	13	1%	3	3	4	6	16	1%
Health & Safety	565	63%	593	188	187	190	1,158	62%
Threatened Eviction	29	3%	60	10	11	8	89	5%
Other	58	6%	52	14	25	19	110	6%

Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.
Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.



**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**



Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	SFY 2018 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
			Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% Exits
Total	831	838	235	291	305	1,669	100%
Abandoned	91	134	20	39	32	225	13%
Criminal Activity	2	2	0	1	1	4	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	482	418	121	173	188	900	54%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	143	139	49	47	47	282	17%
Ineligible	17	22	7	6	4	39	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	6	9	2	1	3	15	1%
Non-compliance	13	19	3	5	5	32	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	61	84	26	17	18	145	9%
Other/Unknown	16	11	7	2	7	27	2%

Notes:

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018

Types of Subsidies at Exit	SFY 2018 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
			Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% Exits
Total Families Receiving Subsidies	717	491	201	277	239	1,208	100%
ESG	2	8	1	1	0	10	2%
HomeBASE	482	384	121	173	188	866	78%
HUD Continuum of Care	11	21	5	5	1	32	4%
MRVP	21	18	6	6	9	39	4%
Private Subsidized Housing	31	46	8	17	6	77	9%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	128	26	12	47	69	154	5%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	23	13	5	8	10	36	3%
Other Public Housing	36	38	17	14	5	74	8%
Transportation	10	9	0	6	4	19	2%

Notes:

Families may receive multiple subsidy types. Therefore, the sum of the subsidy types does not equal the number of families. Data based on subsidies identified at time of shelter/hotel exit. HomeBASE Tracker data based on the date that checks are issued may vary.

**Assistance Provided to Families
with Previous Episodes of Homelessness**

Type of Assistance	SFY 2018 Quarter	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
Total Families	159	159	58	56	45	318
Strategic Prevention Support	9	5	3	3	3	14
HomeBASE Diversion	104	107	39	35	30	211
EA Shelter/Hotel	46	47	16	18	12	93

Note: Data includes returns of families active in EA from FY2013 through the present.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**

EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 2, SFY 2018	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,534	98%
Hotels/Motels	58	2%
All Families	3,592	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	+12	
% Change from Previous Quarter	0.3%	

Note: Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA
During SFY 2018, Quarter 2**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	1,864	370
Cost Per Episode	\$130	\$242,320	\$48,100

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$130 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates). The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA.

HomeBASE Caseload and Payments

HomeBASE Household Assistance	SFY 2018 Quarter 2
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	4,013
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	862
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	3,151
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 12 Months of Receiving HB	17
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$5,969
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$210
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$8,000

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2018**

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

RAFT Applications and Approvals

	SFY 2018 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
Families Applying	1,236		1,140	438	434	364	2,376	
Families Approved	1,060	100%	951	399	363	298	2,011	100%
Asked to Leave	305	29%	210	89	114	102	515	26%
Domestic Violence	17	2%	80	5	6	6	97	5%
Eviction (Private)	317	30%	270	137	98	82	587	29%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	183	17%	156	65	67	51	339	17%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	17	2%	2	3	3	11	19	1%
Foreclosure	13	1%	7	6	3	4	20	1%
Health and Safety	33	3%	27	9	12	12	60	3%
Severe Overcrowding	13	1%	154	5	5	3	167	8%
Utility Shut-Off	109	10%	35	58	43	8	144	7%
Other Crisis	53	5%	10	22	12	19	63	3%

RAFT Assistance Spending

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	1,244
Average	\$2,559
Minimum	\$115
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$836,771	360	\$2,324
15-30% AMI	\$1,120,042	435	\$2,575
30-50% AMI	\$1,066,868	390	\$2,736

Notes:

Some families approved for RAFT during the quarter did not begin receiving payments until the following quarter.
59 families were missing income level data.