

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE  
and RAFT Programs**

Fiscal Year 2018, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development  
May 3, 2018



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

In FY18 Quarter 3, 1,902 families applied for EA, four percent fewer than the previous quarter (1,978 families) and two percent more than FY17 Quarter 3. 959 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 3, seven percent more than the previous quarter (897 families) and five percent more families than FY17 Quarter 2. Also in FY18 Quarter 3, 309 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 24 percent of families entering the system. Another 1,103 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, 360 families in Quarter 3, accounting for 38 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 16 percent and the Brockton and Lawrence offices, both at 8 percent.

Sixty-two 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 16 percent of families, eviction for 13 percent, and threatened eviction for 3 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 67 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-five percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Six 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 two percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units.

During Quarter 3, 1,001 families exited the EA system. 652 (65 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 3,528 families with one percent of these families placed in overflow hotels/motels.

**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

**EA Applications and Entries**

All Applications	SFY 2018 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	1,902	1,978	713	628	614	5,640
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,268	1,223	423	432	413	3,707
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	959	897	321	328	310	2,813
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	76%	73%	76%	76%	75%	76%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	309	326	102	104	103	894
% Entering HomeBASE	24%	27%	24%	24%	25%	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 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	632	697	250	200	182	2,137
Families Determined at Risk	550	609	221	175	154	1,885
% Referrals at Risk	87%	90%	88%	88%	85%	88%
Shelter Diversions	82	88	29	25	28	252
% Referrals Diverted	13%	10%	12%	13%	15%	12%

**Source:** DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

**EA Shelter Entries by Region**

Regional Office	SFY 2018 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>2,813</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	360	38%	370	133	125	102	1,103	39%
Brockton	78	8%	71	24	25	29	237	8%
Fall River	4	<1%	5	1	3	0	15	1%
Fitchburg	7	1%	7	2	3	2	21	1%
Framingham	18	2%	6	4	7	7	39	1%
Greenfield	8	1%	4	3	1	4	21	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
Hyannis	14	1%	13	4	5	5	38	1%
Lawrence	74	8%	58	29	20	25	178	6%
Lowell	1	<1%	13	0	1	0	31	1%
Malden	1	<1%	3	0	0	1	7	<1%
New Bedford	55	6%	41	23	14	18	145	5%
North Shore/Salem	55	6%	32	7	28	20	140	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	7	1%	6	4	2	1	14	<1%
Plymouth	3	<1%	1	1	2	0	7	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	70	7%	53	17	24	29	181	6%
Southbridge	1	<1%	7	0	0	1	13	<1%
Springfield	151	16%	141	53	49	49	450	16%
Taunton	1	<1%	1	0	0	1	5	<1%
Worcester	51	5%	64	16	19	16	167	6%

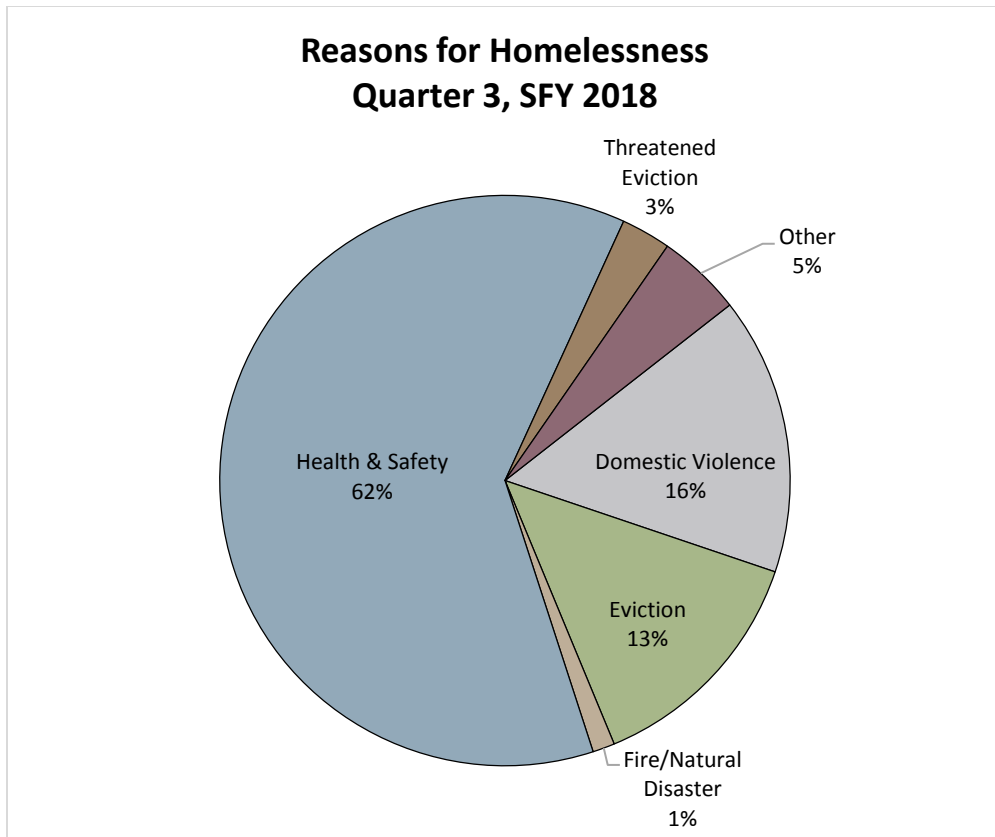
**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

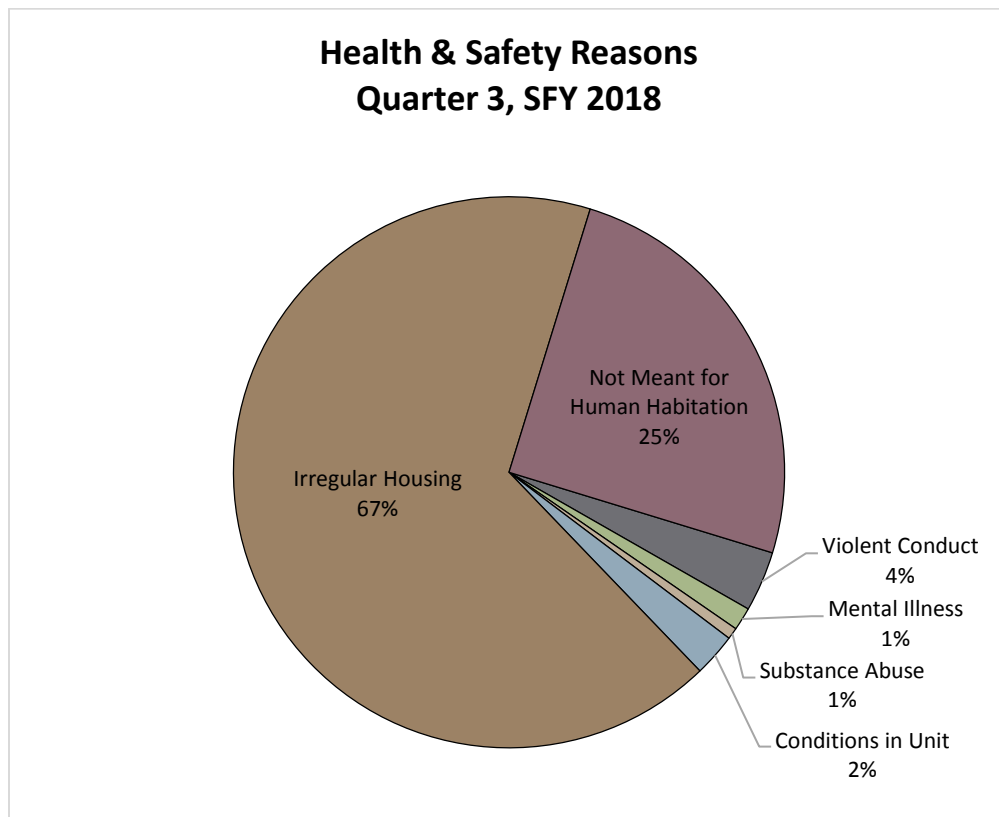
**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2018 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>2,813</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	151	16%	131	47	50	54	426	15%
Eviction	130	14%	101	50	47	33	336	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	12	1%	13	3	5	4	28	1%
Health & Safety	593	62%	565	192	203	198	1,751	62%
Threatened Eviction	27	3%	29	11	8	8	116	4%
Other	46	5%	58	18	15	13	156	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 3, SFY 2018**



**Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits**

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	SFY 2018 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
			Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>100%</b>
Abandoned	100	91	36	25	39	325	12%
Criminal Activity	1	2	0	0	1	5	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	652	482	189	234	229	1552	58%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	119	143	31	45	43	401	15%
Ineligible	17	17	8	3	6	56	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	1	6	0	1	0	16	1%
Non-compliance	24	13	7	14	3	56	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	64	61	24	23	17	209	8%
Other/Unknown	23	16	7	8	8	50	2%

**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

**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.

Types of Subsidies at Exit	SFY 2018 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
			Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total Families Receiving Subsidies</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>100%</b>
ESG	2	2	1	1	0	12	1%
HomeBASE	651	482	188	234	229	1,517	76%
HUD Continuum of Care	17	11	4	5	8	49	2%
MRVP	15	21	4	7	4	54	3%
Private Subsidized Housing	27	31	10	6	11	104	5%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	259	128	73	81	105	413	21%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	28	23	9	11	8	64	3%
Other Public Housing	28	36	10	9	9	102	5%
Transportation	8	10	1	3	4	27	1%

**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
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>455</b>
Strategic Prevention Support	4	6	2	0	2	15
HomeBASE Diversion	76	99	22	25	29	282
EA Shelter/Hotel	65	46	26	18	21	158

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

**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

**EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload**

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 3, SFY 2018	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,484	99%
Hotels/Motels	44	1%
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>100%</b>
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-64	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-1.8%	

**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 3**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,157	445
Cost Per Episode	\$130	\$280,410	\$57,850

**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 3
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	4,105
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	954
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	3,150
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 12 Months of Receiving HB	8
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$5,505
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$299



**Department of Housing and Community Development  
EA Legislative Report  
Quarter 3, SFY 2018**

Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$8,000
--------------------------	---------

## Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

### RAFT Applications and Approvals

	SFY 2018 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>Families Applying</b>	<b>1,311</b>		<b>1,236</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>3,687</b>	
Families Approved	1,103	100%	1,060	307	364	432	3,114	100%
Asked to Leave	307	28%	305	90	111	106	822	26%
Domestic Violence	26	2%	17	9	5	12	123	4%
Eviction (Private)	334	30%	317	89	105	140	921	30%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	183	17%	183	56	56	71	522	17%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	85	8%	17	21	34	30	104	3%
Foreclosure	16	1%	13	4	4	8	36	1%
Health and Safety	42	4%	33	7	15	20	102	3%
Severe Overcrowding	16	1%	13	5	5	6	183	6%
Utility Shut-Off	31	3%	109	11	9	11	175	6%
Other Crisis	63	6%	53	15	20	28	126	4%

### RAFT Assistance Spending Quarter 3, SFY 2018

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	1,205
Average	\$2,511
Minimum	\$148
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$895,997	393	\$2,280
15-30% AMI	\$1,032,843	406	\$2,544
30-50% AMI	\$953,625	342	\$2,788

**Notes:**

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