

Homelessness Prevention: Massachusetts' Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT)

Details for the RAFT program can change. Please refer to:

mass.gov/service-details/residential-assistance-for-families-in-transition-raft-program for the most current information.

RAFT allows eligible households to receive a maximum of \$7,000 in a rolling 12-month period in flexible funds to help avoid or exit homelessness. Typical uses for RAFT include overdue rent, start-up costs (first, last, security deposit), moving expenses or overdue utility bills.

Eligibility

- Households must:
 - be facing a risk of homelessness/ housing instability.
 - If applying for assistance with overdue rent **must have received a Notice to Quit or Eviction Notice.**
 - If a homeowner must be at least **three months behind on mortgage**
 - Health and safety or other housing crises may qualify
 - be currently renting or moving to a new rental or an eligible homeowner
 - have income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI), or 60% of AMI for households at risk of domestic violence.
 - **Check the AMI for your community at:**
hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/raa.aspx
 - **Eligibility checker tool:**
mass.gov/info-details/how-to-apply-for-raft
- Households do **NOT** need a legal immigration status to qualify for RAFT.

To Apply

- **Apply using the centralized online application:**
applyhousinghelp.mass.gov/en-US/Pages/View/124/select-your-language
 - The application takes between 20-50 minutes to complete. You cannot save and return to an application, so you must complete your application in one sitting.
- **Required Documentation includes:**
 - **ID for Head of Household** (such as state issued driver's license, birth certificate, passport)
 - **Proof of Current Housing if housed** (such as lease, tenancy agreement, tenancy at will agreement)

- **Verification of Housing Crisis** (such as Notice to Quit, eviction notice, utility shutoff notice, documentation showing inability to stay in current home)
- **Verification of Income** may be needed if RAFT cannot verify your income through other state databases; they will contact you if you need to supply additional documentation
- We encourage you to notify your landlord that you are applying early in the process. Once you have submitted your application, your landlord/property owner will be asked to provide a W-9 for the property owner and proof of ownership of the unit.

Additional Questions

You can locate and contact your local Regional Administering Agency with any questions about the program. Find your local agency at: hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/raa.aspx

Sources and for More Information see the RAFT websites:

mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-for-emergency-housing-payment-assistance

mass.gov/service-details/residential-assistance-for-families-in-transition-raft-program