

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE  
and RAFT Programs**

Fiscal Year 2018, Fourth Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development  
August 21, 2018



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA, HomeBASE and RAFT Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 4, SFY 2018**

In FY18 Quarter 4, 1,981 families applied for EA, four percent more than the previous quarter (1,902 families) and two percent fewer than FY17 Quarter 4. 974 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 4, two percent more than the previous quarter (959 families) and five percent more families than FY17 Quarter 4. Total shelter/hotel entries during FY18 was 3,787 families, two percent fewer than in FY17. During FY18 Quarter 4, 214 EA eligible families (18%) 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. The total number of HomeBASE diversions in FY18 was 1,108 or 23% of EA eligible families compared to 20% in FY17. During Quarter 4, another 1,260 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 total number of families approved of RAFT during FY18 was 4,374.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 346 families in Quarter 4, accounting for 36 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 18 percent and the Brockton office at 9 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 17 percent of families, eviction for 12 percent, threatened eviction for two percent, and fire, flood and natural disaster accounted for one percent of entries. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 65 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-six percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Nine 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 4, 872 families exited the EA system. 514 (59 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 3,581 families with one percent of these families placed in overflow hotels/motels.

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**EA Applications and Entries**

All Applications	SFY 2018 Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			FY18 Total
			Apr	May	Jun	
Families Applying to EA	1,981	1,902	675	635	718	7,355
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,188	1,268	386	403	399	4,895
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	974	959	321	333	320	3,787
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	82%	76%	83%	83%	80%	77%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	214	309	65	70	79	1,108
% Entering HomeBASE	18%	24%	17%	17%	20%	23%

**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 4	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			FY18 Total
			Apr	May	Jun	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	652	632	215	224	213	2,789
Families Determined at Risk	566	550	184	204	178	2,451
% Referrals at Risk	87%	87%	86%	91%	84%	88%
Shelter Diversions	86	82	31	20	35	338
% Referrals Diverted	13%	13%	14%	9%	16%	12%

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

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**EA Shelter Entries by Region**

Regional Office	SFY 2018 Quarter 4		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 2018 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>3,787</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	346	36%	360	115	123	108	1,449	38%
Brockton	92	9%	78	28	29	35	329	9%
Fall River	6	1%	4	1	1	4	21	1%
Fitchburg	10	1%	7	1	4	5	31	1%
Framingham	11	1%	18	5	2	4	50	1%
Greenfield	9	1%	8	4	1	4	30	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	1	<1%
Hyannis	14	1%	14	5	5	4	52	1%
Lawrence	63	6%	74	18	27	18	241	6%
Lowell	3	<1%	1	1	2	0	34	1%
Malden	2	<1%	1	1	1	0	9	<1%
New Bedford	45	5%	55	15	19	11	190	5%
North Shore/Salem	66	7%	55	26	22	18	206	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	3	<1%	7	0	1	2	17	<1%
Plymouth	1	<1%	3	0	0	1	8	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	67	7%	70	26	18	23	248	7%
Southbridge	5	1%	1	0	1	4	18	<1%
Springfield	180	18%	151	64	59	57	630	17%
Taunton	0	0%	1	0	0	0	5	<1%
Worcester	51	5%	51	11	18	22	218	6%

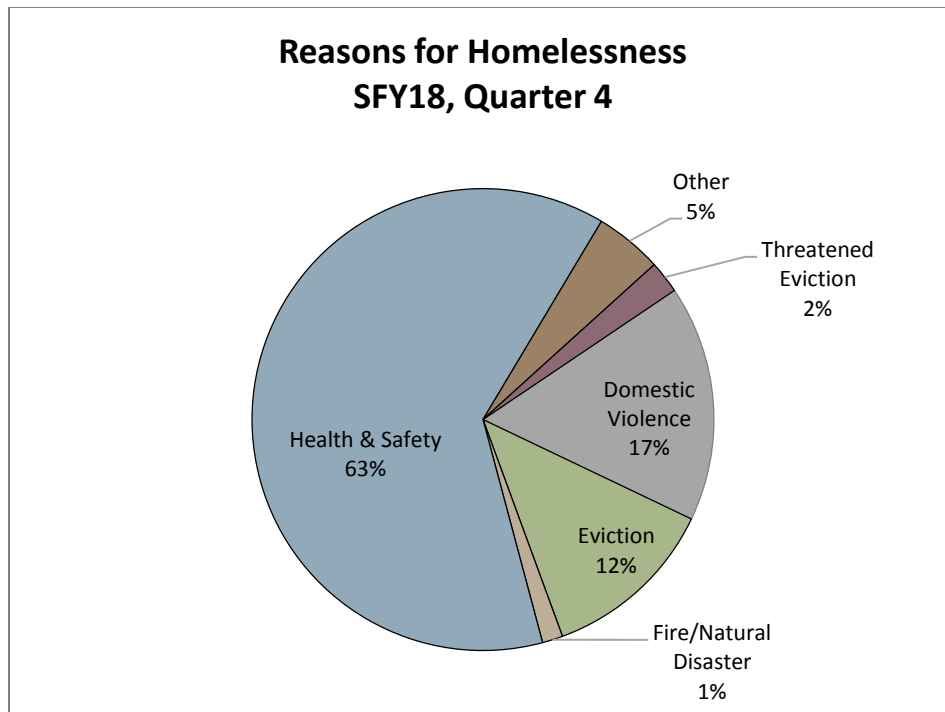
**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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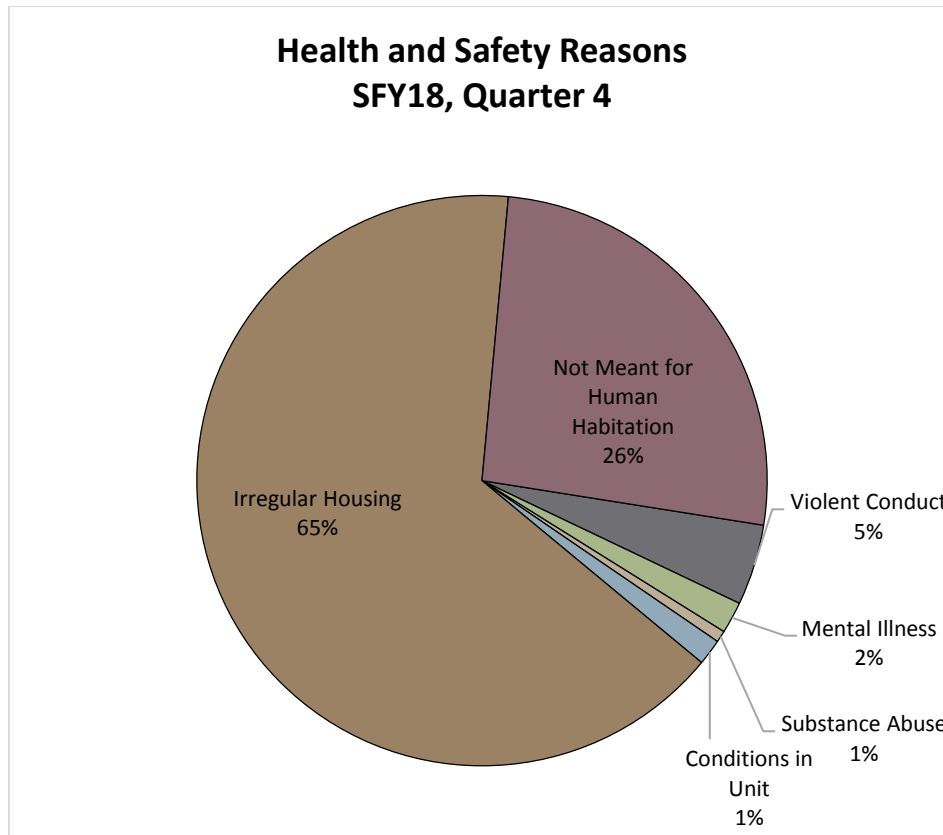
**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2018 Quarter 4		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 2018 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>3,787</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	161	17%	151	49	53	59	587	16%
Eviction	120	12%	130	39	46	35	456	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	14	1%	12	3	4	7	42	1%
Health & Safety	611	63%	593	204	201	206	2,362	62%
Threatened Eviction	46	5%	27	20	20	6	162	4%
Other	22	2%	46	6	9	7	178	5%

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



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**Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits**

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	SFY 2018 Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 2018 Total	
			Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>100%</b>
Abandoned	104	100	27	40	37	429	12%
Criminal Activity	9	1	1	5	3	14	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	514	652	199	163	152	2066	58%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	135	119	55	48	32	536	15%
Ineligible	14	17	3	7	4	70	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	5	1	1	1	3	21	1%
Non-compliance	6	24	2	2	2	62	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	63	64	11	31	21	272	8%
Other/Unknown	22	23	7	6	9	72	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.

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Types of Subsidies at Exit	SFY 2018 Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 2018 Total	
			Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total Families Receiving Subsidies</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2,634</b>	<b>100%</b>
ESG	5	2	2	3	0	17	1%
HomeBASE	514	651	199	163	152	2,031	77%
HUD Continuum of Care	20	17	11	5	4	69	3%
MRVP	21	15	7	7	7	75	3%
Private Subsidized Housing	32	27	11	9	12	136	5%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	168	259	81	64	23	581	22%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	34	28	10	12	12	98	4%
Other Public Housing	33	28	10	11	12	135	5%
Transportation	5	8	1	2	2	32	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 and may vary from HomeBASE Tracker data, which is based on the date that checks are issued.

**Source:** DHCD, ASIST EA State Exit Assessments.

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

Type of Assistance	SFY 2018 Quarter	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 18 Total
			Apr	May	Jun	
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>594</b>
Strategic Prevention Support	11	3	3	4	4	24
HomeBASE Diversion	69	74	25	21	23	348
EA Shelter/Hotel	64	65	28	20	16	222

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

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**EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload**

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 4, SFY 2018	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,550	99%
Hotels/Motels	31	1%
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>100%</b>
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	53	
% Change from Previous Quarter	1.5%	

**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 4**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,159	410
Cost Per Episode	\$130	\$280,670	\$53,300

**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 4
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	3,874
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	792
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	3,082
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 12 Months of Receiving HB	0
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$5,374
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$303
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$8,000



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## Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

### RAFT Applications and Approvals

	SFY 2018 Quarter 4		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018 Quarter 4			SFY 2018 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
<b>Families Applying</b>	<b>1,561</b>		<b>1,311</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>5,248</b>	
Families Approved	1,260	100%	1,103	451	477	332	4,374	100%
Asked to Leave	322	26%	307	140	118	64	1,144	26%
Domestic Violence	17	1%	26	7	6	4	140	3%
Eviction (Private)	304	24%	334	106	121	77	1,225	28%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	202	16%	183	66	80	56	724	17%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	78	6%	85	35	25	18	182	4%
Foreclosure	17	1%	16	7	7	3	53	1%
Health and Safety	40	3%	42	17	15	8	142	3%
Severe Overcrowding	17	1%	16	12	1	4	200	5%
Utility Shut-Off	189	15%	31	29	85	75	364	8%
Other Crisis	74	6%	63	32	19	23	200	5%

### RAFT Assistance Spending Quarter 4, SFY 2018

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	1,260
Average	\$3,362
Minimum	\$100
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$1,241,548	369	\$3,365
15-30% AMI	\$1,595,726	475	\$3,359
30-50% AMI	\$1,398,814	416	\$3,363