

RAFT

2015-2016

RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION IN MASSACHUSETTS



SAVINGS WITH RAFT: By investing \$10.4 million into RAFT aid payments, the commonwealth saves \$137 million, by not having to pay the high cost of emergency shelter.



RESIDENT DEMAND IS GOING UP: There were 3,678 RAFT clients in FY 2015, and 4,065 in FY 2016, a 10 percent increase.



RAFT HELPS WOMEN AND CHILDREN: Of the 4,065 families receiving RAFT assistance in FY 2016, 88 percent were led by women. The average size of a family receiving RAFT aid is three; this means that the largest recipient group of RAFT aid is children in families most often headed by a single mother.



HIGH PRESSURE MARKET: The rental vacancy rate in Massachusetts in 2010 was 25.5 percent; now it stands closer to 4.6 percent. In areas with very high demand, such as Boston or the Cape, the number of vacant units gets even lower.



INCOME VS. RENT: From 2010 to 2014, median rents went up 11 percent, while median family incomes increased only 6 percent.



FLEXIBILITY: RAFT benefits help clients where they need it most, whether it's catching up with overdue electric bills, late mortgage or rent payments, child-care costs, moving expenses or start-up money for a new unit.



NO GUARANTEE: Funding decisions for the RAFT program are made annually. It's needed now more than ever.

To learn more about the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program, visit the Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts blog (<http://regionalhousingblog.wordpress.com>) or website (www.regionalhousing.net).