



January 20, 2021

STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF RAFT APPLICATIONS

Metro Housing|Boston on pace to triple housing support with RAFT funding in FY21; Outreach to communities of color shows large increases of families assisted

In the last six months, Metro Housing|Boston provided Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) eviction prevention to 2,807 families, more than all of the families assisted in FY20. With the recent efficiencies implemented in the RAFT process, Metro Housing expects to help three times as many families by the end of June.

Overall, Metro Housing has helped 64% more families in these six months than in all of FY20; 2,807 households compared to 1,710. Toward the end of December, Metro Housing was processing weekly check runs of nearly \$800,000. It expects to process a weekly average of \$1 million soon.

Metro Housing has prioritized reaching out to underserved communities. It is clear from this mid-year data that the outreach efforts of Metro Housing have accomplished the critical goal of getting support to those households in communities most directly impacted by COVID 19. Our extensive partnerships with local organizations such as Asian Community Development Corporation, CONNECT, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, The Neighborhood Developers, Viet-AID, WATCH CDC, and Action for Boston Community Development, have greatly extended the availability of services available to specific communities in need.

"The Asian Community Development Corporation very much appreciates our partnership with Metro Housing on RAFT to ensure that our immigrant community members can access RAFT in their native languages," said Angie Liou, Executive Director, Asian Community Development Corporation. "Throughout the pandemic we have seen too often communities of color and immigrants fall through the cracks in relief programs; Metro Housing's partnership with local grassroots organizations provides these communities with access to much needed housing assistance."

"Since the regional housing crisis has caused rents and property values to increase to unsustainable levels in Chelsea and Revere, RAFT has been a critical tool for our gateway communities," said Rafael Mares, Executive Director, The Neighborhood Developers. "As a result of the pandemic it has become a lifeline for many. TND is honored to be able to assist with applications for RAFT in partnership with Metro Housing Boston. RAFT is a critical resource because it serves tenants and owners regardless of immigration status."

Examples of specific community increases include:

- **East Boston** has seen a ten-fold increase between the two time periods: 21 families in all of FY20 and 238 families in these first six months. More than 150 more families in **Boston** overall (12%) have received more help in FY21 to date compared to all last year.
- **Revere** registers a six-fold increase, from 30 to 208 families.
- **Chelsea** has seen a five-fold increase, from 62 households to 345, as has **Waltham**, from 21 to 101 families.



- The number of families helped in **Everett** has almost tripled, from 31 to 82, as has **Malden**, also increasing from 31 to 82.
- **Quincy** families' participation in RAFT has more than doubled, from 47 to 111 families, as has those in **Jamaica Plain**, from 18 to 42 households.

Those wishing to apply for RAFT assistance may do so by accessing [the application](#) on the Metro Housing|Boston's website. Those without access to a computer may request an application by calling the Housing Consumer Education Center at 617.425.6700.

RAFT Comparison – Twelve months (FY20) vs Six months (FY21)

Twelve Months FY20 RAFT Households/ Total Funding		
	# households	\$
Allston	10	\$28,523
Boston*	114	\$271,227
Brighton	14	\$32,737
Charlestown	28	\$69,366
Dorchester	599	\$1,528,855
East Boston	21	\$54,291
Hyde Park	93	\$228,191
Jamaica Plain	18	\$34,651
Mattapan	107	\$280,275
Roslindale	49	\$119,920
Roxbury	178	\$431,561
South Boston	29	\$80,661
West Roxbury	9	\$25,862
<i>Boston Subtotal</i>	<i>1269</i>	<i>\$3,186,121</i>
Arlington	5	\$18,038
Bedford	2	\$2,013
Belmont	4	\$11,819
Braintree	27	\$79,451
Brookline	4	\$16,000
Burlington	1	\$805
Cambridge	58	\$123,020
Chelsea	62	\$184,064
Everett	31	\$88,306
Lexington	2	\$4,919

Six Months FY21 RAFT Households/Total Funding (through 12/31)				
	# households	% increase over FY20	\$	% increase over FY20
Allston	34	240%	\$74,419	161%
Boston*	169	48%	\$327,212	21%
Brighton	41	193%	\$77,159	136%
Charlestown	29	4%	\$59,024	-15%
Dorchester	537	-10%	\$1,121,136	-27%
East Boston	238	1033%	\$663,312	1122%
Hyde Park	85	-9%	\$193,816	-15%
Jamaica Plain	42	133%	\$76,559	121%
Mattapan	79	-26%	\$163,921	-42%
Roslindale	30	-39%	\$72,491	-40%
Roxbury	103	-42%	\$213,349	-51%
South Boston	17	-41%	\$43,741	-46%
West Roxbury	11	22%	\$25,250	-2%
<i>Boston Subtotal</i>	<i>1415</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>\$3,111,388</i>	<i>-2%</i>
Arlington	19	280%	\$29,847	65%
Bedford	7	250%	\$13,746	583%
Belmont	7	75%	\$14,050	19%
Braintree	39	44%	\$99,595	25%
Brookline	10	150%	\$21,882	37%
Burlington	7	600%	\$15,756	1857%
Cambridge	52	-10%	\$84,817	-31%
Chelsea	345	456%	\$880,972	379%
Everett	82	165%	\$211,803	140%
Lexington	1	-50%	\$4,000	-19%



Metro Housing B O S T O N

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Malden	31	\$87,444
Medford	13	\$38,009
Melrose	6	\$16,175
Milton	1	\$4,000
Newton	14	\$46,307
North Reading	3	\$9,285
Quincy	47	\$137,538
Reading	1	\$196
Revere	30	\$86,466
Somerville	24	\$75,439
Stoneham	1	\$750
Wakefield	4	\$12,641
Waltham	21	\$61,795
Watertown	9	\$26,707
Wilmington	6	\$23,509
Winchester	1	\$3,433
Winthrop	5	\$13,247
Woburn	14	\$45,485
Out of region	14	\$41,798
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>\$1,258,660</i>
Grand Total	1710	\$4,444,781

Malden	82	165%	\$180,220	106%
Medford	20	54%	\$51,992	37%
Melrose	3	-50%	\$12,000	-26%
Milton	7	600%	\$22,367	459%
Newton	13	-7%	\$20,842	-55%
North Reading	5	67%	\$8,000	-14%
Quincy	111	136%	\$263,520	92%
Reading	6	500%	\$13,154	6613%
Revere	208	593%	\$556,596	544%
Somerville	177	638%	\$429,987	470%
Stoneham	8	700%	\$15,915	2022%
Wakefield	1	-75%	\$4,000	-68%
Waltham	101	381%	\$220,209	256%
Watertown	14	56%	\$23,188	-13%
Wilmington	2	-67%	\$2,200	-91%
Winchester	1	0%	\$1,450	-58%
Winthrop	15	200%	\$35,327	167%
Woburn	30	114%	\$73,335	61%
Out of region	19	36%	\$25,349	-39%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1392</i>	<i>216%</i>	<i>\$3,336,120</i>	<i>165%</i>
Grand Total	2807	64%	\$6,447,508	45%

* Eleven "Boston" neighborhoods include Aquarium, Back Bay, Battery Wharf, Beacon Hill, Chinatown, Common and Government Center, Fenway, North End, and Seaport.