



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Chrystal Komegay, Undersecretary

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House
Room 212
Boston, Massachusetts 02113

The Honorable Brian S. Dempsey
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House
Room 243
Boston, Massachusetts 02113

Dear Senator Spilka and Representative Dempsey:

In accordance with FY 2016 Final Budget Line Item 7004-0101 Emergency Assistance (EA), attached is the first quarterly report. It provides detailed information about the EA system including the number of families placed in shelter and hotels/motels and related costs. It also provides data on the number exiting EA as well as those diverted from shelter with HomeBASE assistance.

During Quarter 1, DHCD administered EA applications for 2,853 families. 1,274 families were placed in shelters or overflow hotels/motels, while 350 families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance. Thirty-seven percent fewer families stayed in EA hotels/motels during Quarter 1 compared to the same time last year, reflecting the Department's efforts to reduce its reliance on these overflow rooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Evans".

Rose Evans
Deputy Undersecretary

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2016, First Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

November 16, 2015



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 1, SFY 2016

During Quarter 1, 2,853 families applied for EA, almost equal to the number of families who applied the previous quarter (2,850 families) but sixteen percent fewer families compared to FY15 Quarter 4. 1,274 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 1, five percent more than the than the previous quarter (1,212 families) but 19 percent fewer families than were placed in FY15 Quarter 1. Also in FY16 Quarter 1, 350 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 22 percent of families entering the system. Eighteen percent chose a HomeBASE diversion the previous quarter, while only nine percent took a HomeBASE diversion in FY15 Quarter 1.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 483 families in Quarter 1, 38% of all placements, followed by the Springfield and Brockton offices, respectively, accounting for 9 percent and 8 percent of placements.

Fifty-three percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while eviction was the reason for homelessness for 14 percent of families and domestic violence for another 13 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 56% qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-four percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation, and 10 percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units. Another nine percent of families entering an EA shelter or hotel/motel during Quarter 1 were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

During Quarter 1, there was an average daily caseload of 1,252 families in hotels/motels compared to 1,312 in the previous quarter (a 5 percent decrease) and 1,994 in FY15 Quarter 1 (a 37 percent decrease).

During Quarter 1, 1,167 families exited the EA system. 520 (45%) of these families left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 1, SFY 2016**

All Applications	SFY 2016 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
Families Applying to EA	2,853	2,850	1,041	1,001	919	2,853
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,624	1,475	561	546	517	1,624
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	1,274	1,212	420	430	424	1,274
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	78%	82%	75%	79%	82%	78%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	350	263	141	116	93	350
% Entering HomeBASE	22%	18%	25%	21%	18%	22%

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.

	SFY 2016 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	Jul	Aug	Sep	SFY 2016 YTD
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	752	676	249	274	229	752
Families Determined at Risk	605	536	207	217	181	605
% Referrals at Risk	80%	79%	83%	79%	79%	80%
Shelter Diversions	147	140	42	57	48	147
% Referrals Diverted	20%	21%	17%	21%	21%	20%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2016 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,274	100%	1,212	420	430	424	1,274	100%
Boston	483	38%	403	150	159	174	483	38%
Brockton	107	8%	114	41	34	32	107	8%
Fall River	32	3%	35	10	13	9	32	3%
Fitchburg	16	1%	12	8	5	3	16	1%
Framingham	24	2%	11	8	5	11	24	2%
Greenfield	17	1%	22	4	9	4	17	1%
Holyoke	57	4%	52	23	24	10	57	4%
Hyannis	26	2%	14	15	7	4	26	2%
Lawrence	69	5%	53	16	25	28	69	5%
Lowell	54	4%	38	14	22	18	54	4%
Malden	23	2%	65	14	5	4	23	2%
New Bedford	28	2%	26	8	14	6	28	2%
North Shore/Salem	52	4%	67	27	12	13	52	4%
Pittsfield/North Adams	1	<1%	6	0	1	0	1	<1%
Plymouth	6	<1%	12	2	3	1	6	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	97	8%	75	30	34	33	97	8%
Southbridge	4	<1%	2	0	4	0	4	<1%
Springfield	113	9%	138	33	34	46	113	9%
Taunton	8	1%	12	3	4	1	8	1%
Worcester	57	4%	55	14	16	27	57	4%

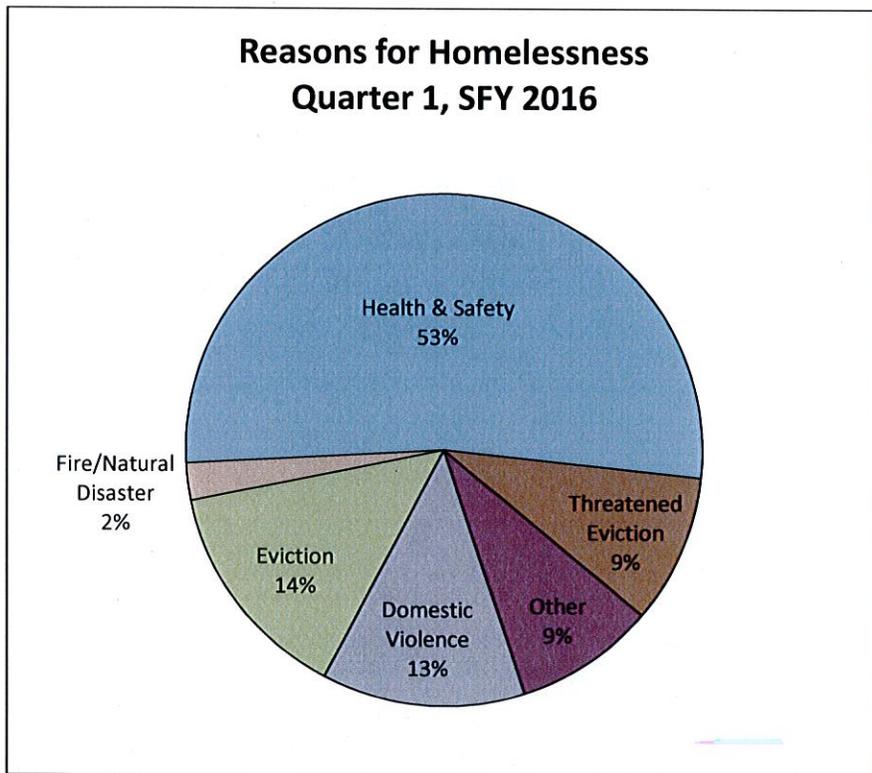
Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 1, SFY 2016**

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

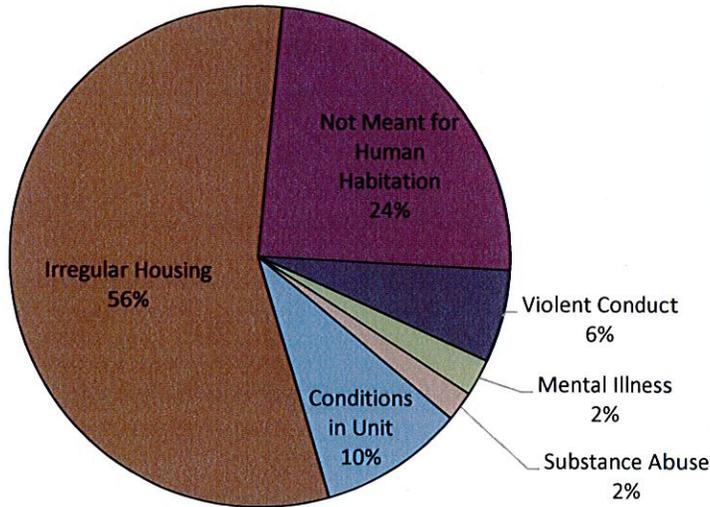
Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2016 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,274	100%	1,212	420	430	424	1,274	100%
Domestic Violence	162	13%	186	48	56	58	162	13%
Eviction	179	14%	169	62	58	59	179	14%
Fire/Natural Disaster	30	2%	12	7	13	10	30	2%
Health & Safety	670	53%	622	227	227	216	670	53%
Threatened Eviction	120	9%	129	39	39	42	120	9%
HomeBASE Waiver	0	0%	14	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	113	9%	80	37	37	39	113	9%

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 1, SFY 2016**

**Health & Safety Reasons
Quarter 1 SFY 2016**



Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	Quarter 1	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% Exits
Total	1,167	359	404	404	1,167	100%
Abandoned	185	66	61	58	185	16%
Criminal Activity	8	2	2	4	8	1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	520	173	170	177	520	45%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	204	58	76	70	204	17%
Ineligible	30	12	10	8	30	3%
No Show/Rejected Placement	18	2	7	9	18	2%
Non-compliance	13	4	5	4	13	1%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	104	32	40	32	104	9%
Other/Unknown	85	10	33	42	85	7%

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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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 1, SFY 2016	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,248	72%
Hotels/Motels	1,256	28%
All Families	4,504	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-21	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-0.5%	

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 Quarter 1**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	1,344	322
Cost Per Episode	\$117	\$157,248	\$37,674

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$117 (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

Type of Assistance	Number of Families
Household Assistance	3,892

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program during September 2015.