**GUIDE ME: I am behind on my rent.**

**Here are some steps that you can take**

**Apply for RAFT:**

If Eligible - RAFT offers financial assistance to help pay back rent.

Eligibility Depends on:

❏ Your family MUST be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

❏ Your household MUST be income eligible

❏ Must meet basic criteria of a RAFT Screen

❏ Your family MUST show that RAFT assistance will stabilize your current housing situation.

To learn more, visit: www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-residential-assistance-for-families-intransition-raft.

**Make A Payment Plan With Your Landlord:**

Many landlords are more interested in getting the rent paid than evicting you, and will allow you to make payments plans. Many tenants have been able to put together payments plans drawing from their own resources, the RAFT program and charities to make a payment plan. It is recommended that you start working on a plan with your landlord as soon as possible. Ask your landlord if they will make a payment plan without going to court. If not possible, then wait to see if you can make a payment plan as part of the eviction case.

**Go to Court Even If You Think You Have Worked It Out With Your Landlord**

If your landlord started an eviction case against you in court, make sure to attend court on your hearing date – even if you think you have worked it out with your landlord or paid off your back rent. The landlord could ask for a default judgment against you if you don’t show-up.

**Contact local charities or religious organizations to ask if they have any services that may help.**

*The suggestions provided above are not legal advice and are provided as information only.*

*Whenever you have a legal problem, it is always best to talk to a lawyer who can give you advice that is uniquely tailored to your situation. The Massachusetts Legal Resource Finder can help you find lawyers and other legal help resources in your area.*