

Program Name: HomeBASE

Also known as Massachusetts Short-Term Housing Transition Program Agency: Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Division of Housing Stabilization (DHS)

Description: State funded program which helps homeless families pay rent for up to 1 year. HomeBASE is available to help families avoid going into shelters or assist them with leaving a shelter.

Website: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing-apartments-shelter/emergency-shelter/emergency-assistance-basic-shelter-rights-families> & <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/homebase>

Eligibility:

Must be very low-income (<115% FPL) homeless family with children under 21 and/or a pregnant woman to qualify. Homeless means 1) either homeless or about to be homeless in a few days; 2) have no safe place to stay and 3) meet Emergency Assistance eligibility (see prior page). If family does not have a safe place to stay, DHCD must put them in an EA shelter or short-term HomeBASE apartment, even before family has found a long-term place to live with HomeBASE.

Availability/Limitations:

To receive HomeBASE, a family must first be found eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA), so it is important to complete an EA application as well. Family must agree to and sign a Stabilization Plan, which includes paying rent on time, working or attending training, saving money, and keeping children in school. If family does not stick to plan, they could lose HomeBASE benefits for 1 year.

Immigrants: HomeBASE is available to immigrants with legal status, including refugees, lawful permanent residents, and persons residing in the U.S. under color of law. If any member of the household has one of these statuses or is a citizen, the entire household meets this rule. Must also show proof of Massachusetts residency.

Amount: HomeBASE can provide funds for first month's rent, last month's rent and security deposit in a new home (up to \$8,000), furniture (not to exceed \$1,000), a monthly stipend to help pay rent for up to one year, as well as utilities, travel costs and/or many other expenses that would otherwise prevent a family from accessing a new home.

How to Apply:

To apply via phone, call DHCD Recipient Services: 1-866-584-0653

Or visit DTA Boston office located at 2201 Washington St., Roxbury, MA; phone: 1-617-989-6100

Can apply in person at some DTA offices, including: Boston (Dudley Square), Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Framingham, Hyannis, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Salem, Springfield and Worcester.

Also see, Boston Housing Consumer Education Center: Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, 125 Lincoln Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111; phone: 617-859-0400 website: www.mbhp.org

Linked Services? Family may qualify for Emergency Assistance while waiting for HomeBASE subsidy.

Right to Appeal: Yes, if appeal request is within 7 days of receiving notice. Hearing must take place within 15 days of request. This applies to both initial denial of benefit and to termination of benefit after having moved into a home. Eligible for aid pending appeal.

Retroactive? No.