

DHCD's Emergency Assistance Program

January 14, 2014



EA Overview

- Created under Chapter 450 of the Acts of 1983
- Transferred from DTA to DHCD in July 2009
- Massachusetts is the only state with a “right to shelter” for families who are homeless
 - No waitlists to enter shelter
 - No limits on length of stay
 - Extensive appeals processes for denials, transfers, and terminations
- 20 Local Eligibility Offices
- 48 Contracted Providers, Approx. 2,400 shelter units
- Approx. 2,100 overflow hotel/motel units



Current EA Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must have minor dependents or be pregnant, must prove Massachusetts residency, and must be homeless due to one of the following reasons:
 - Domestic Violence;
 - Fire, Flood, or Natural Disaster;
 - Eviction(no fault or excused fault); or
 - Substantial health and safety risk that is likely to result in significant harm if the family remains in their housing

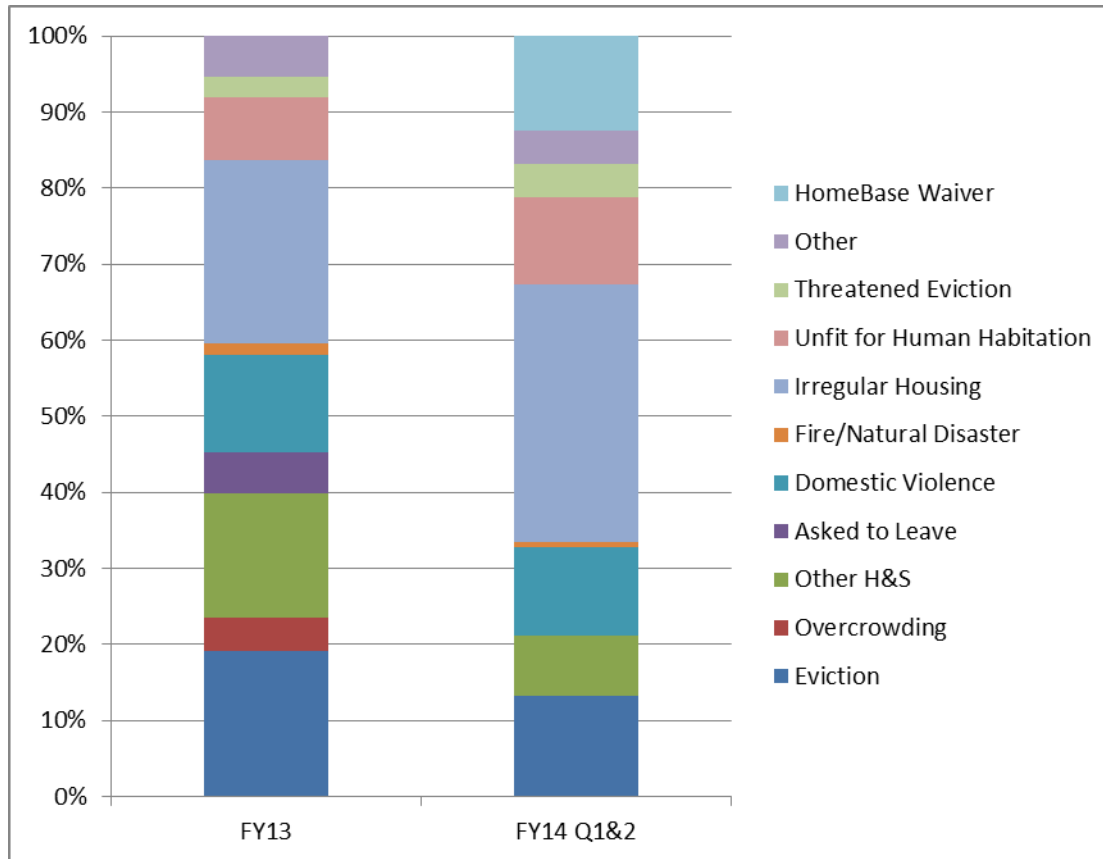


Current Disqualifying Reasons

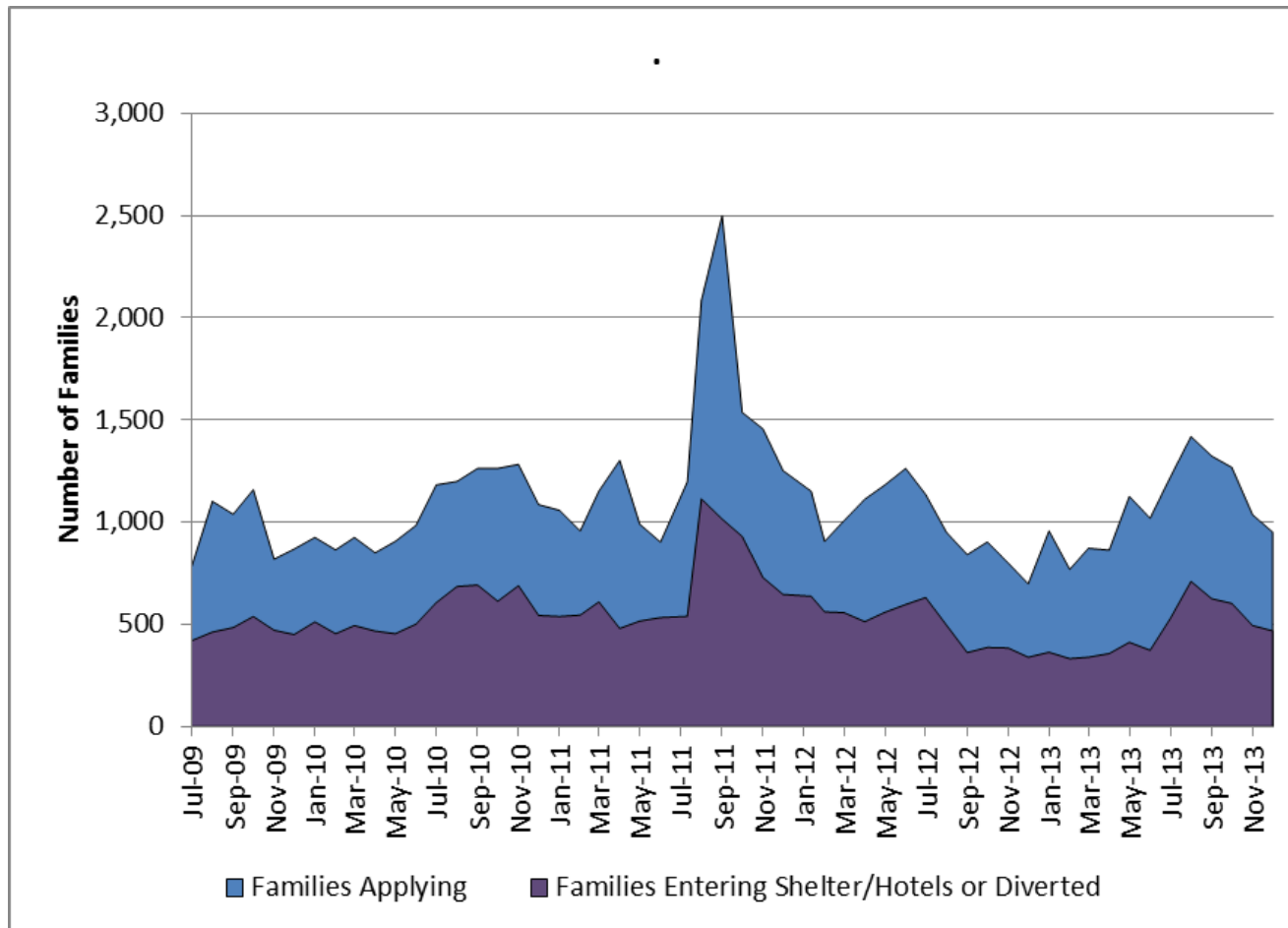
- Income over 115% Federal Poverty Level;
- Access to Feasible Alternative Housing;
- Attempted to Make Self Eligible for EA;
- Used EA in the prior 12 months;
- Abandoned or Evicted from Public/Subsidized Housing; or
- Asked to Leave Teen Living Programs.



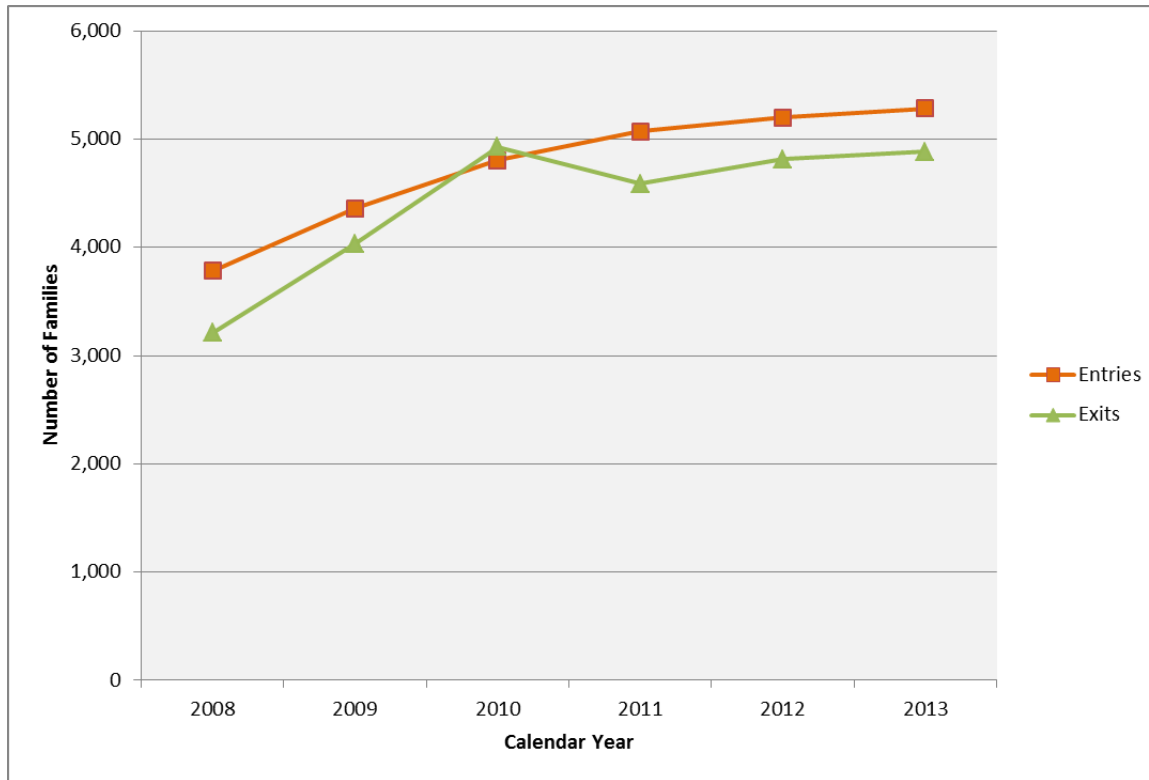
Reasons for Homelessness, FY13 and FY14 (YTD)



The Emergency Assistance (EA) “Front Door” July 2009 – December 2013



Families Entering and Exiting EA, CY08-CY13



Note: Data include families entering and exiting EA shelter and hotel/motels.



State Partners

- Overall coordination through Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness
- Department of Children and Families
 - Conducts Health and Safety Assessments
 - Assists with site visits to hotels/motels
- Department of Public Health
 - Serves families in hotel/motels through Follow-up, Outreach, Referral (F.O.R.) Families Program
- Department of Early Education and Care
 - Provides childcare slots to families in DHCD funded programs
 - Supports expanded outreach to children ages 0-5 years



Recent Initiatives

Prevention and Diversion

- Up to \$4,000 in RAFT—3,000 families in FY13 and at least 3,000 in FY14
- Up to \$4,000 in HomeBASE Household Assistance—500 families in FY13
- DCF Health and Safety Assessments—500 families diverted in FY13
- Co-location of Regional agency staff at local offices
- HomeBASE Rental Assistance Transition (91% remain housed)

Rapid Rehousing Strategies

- Up to \$4,000 in HomeBASE Household Assistance—2,500 families in FY13
- Complementing with up to \$2,000 in flexible funds
- Reduced waiting period to return to shelter from 12 months to 3 months
- 950 MRVPs leased up in FY13; 1,000 MRVPs issued in FY14
- Hotel/motel outreach and housing placement
- Cross agency teams make weekly visits—16 additional DPH/DCF staff since Jan.
- Post placement stabilization services



Recent Initiatives

Shelter Expansion

- Bringing on 650 new beds by March 31, 2014 (400 beds from Sept YTD)

Permanent Housing

- 4,000 new deeply subsidized units since 2007; 700 units in 2013
- \$20M in additional capital funds in FY14
- New Supportive Housing: 600 units in 2013; awards for at least 200 additional units will be announced in March
- Vacant public housing units (400 brought online and awards made for 100 more units in Feb.)
- Preservation of existing public and subsidized housing (13,000 “expiring use” units preserved since 2009)
- New Lease for Homeless Families—150 units annually
- Self-sufficiency programs (LEAP)
- Secure Jobs Initiative--\$1M NOFA released in January for Phase 2

