



Homelessness Prevention



Housing Stability



Economic Security

Winter 2019-20

## HELPING TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

### New Report Reveals Metro Housing's RAFT Program Saves Commonwealth up to \$33 Million



Panelists at Metro Housing's recent forum on the 2019 RAFT Report (L-R): Thea James, MD, Vice President, Boston Medical Center; Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing|Boston; Eileen Murphy, RAFT recipient; Jillian Pinola, Regional Vice President, Beacon Communities; Molly Butman, Assistant Director, Housing Supports at Metro Housing; Amy Mullen, RAFT Manager at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); and Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing and Director of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston.

On the brink of eviction, Eileen and her family found an apartment with the help of Metro Housing, but she was unable to come up with the standard move-in costs.

Knowing that Eileen needed just a little bit more help, Metro Housing staff connected her with the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program, known as RAFT. Without this help, Eileen would have been stuck.

Instead, Eileen was one of more than 1,700 families that benefitted from RAFT in the Greater Boston region. Administered by Metro Housing, RAFT helps families with a housing crisis so that they can stay in their homes or move to a stable housing situation.

Metro Housing released its FY 2019 RAFT Report at a public forum in early December. The report found that this critical resource served households in all 29 Metro Housing communities. Almost \$4.5 million dollars was distributed to help with back rent, utility payments, and other expenses. This investment kept 1,710 households stably housed. 525 of them were individuals newly eligible for RAFT, previously

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## 2019 CHAMPIONS OF HOUSING

### Annual Event Honors Community Leaders

Metro Housing honored community leaders who share our passion and commitment to affordable housing at our Champions of Housing Celebration on November 7th. The event, held at the Boch Center-Wang Theater, was attended by 275 people and raised \$409,000 to support Metro Housing programs.

Melissa Fish-Crane of Peabody Properties and Joe Rettman of NEI General Contracting served as co-chairs of the event.

Key Sponsors for the evening were:

**Cocktail Reception Sponsor:** NEI General Contracting

**Platinum Sponsors:** Bank of America; State Street Corporation; Winn Development

**Gold Sponsors:** Beacon Communities LLC; Corcoran Jennison Companies; Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation; Keith Construction, Inc.; National Lumber; Peabody Properties, Inc.; Superior Plumbing

Metro Housing extends our sincere gratitude to all of our sponsors and attendees of Champions of Housing.



The 2019 Champions of Housing honorees (L-R): Robert Torres, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Pamela Feingold, Eastern Bank; Shelley Hoon Keith and John Keith, Keith Properties, Inc.; Jesse Kanson-Benanav, B'nai B'rith Housing. Honoree Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley was unable to attend the event.