



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

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

PUBLIC HOUSING NOTICE 2015-24

TO: All Local Housing Authorities

FROM: Laura Taylor, Director, Bureau of Housing Management

SUBJECT: Guidance to Local Housing Authorities on Protocol for Supporting Veterans Tenancies

DATE: October 2, 2015

As you may be aware, the Federal Government through its agencies of the VA and HUD have published and funded plans to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its agencies including EOHHS, DVS, EOHED and DHCD issued a state wide plan to end veteran homelessness in 2013 which is in alignment with the federal plan and seeks to meet the goal of December 2015. This plan relies on strong partnerships with local housing authorities, veterans' services providers, municipalities and Continuums of Care and their local housing and homeless services providers. Several new initiatives are currently underway and include new partnerships with local housing authorities, Veterans Services Officers and veterans' services providers which are designed not only to house veterans but to prevent veterans from becoming homeless.

To that end, we are requesting your active cooperation and participation in an initiative to preserve veterans' tenancies in public and subsidized housing. Attached is a form – an authorization to release information form- to be provided to veterans during the lease up process or during the re-certification process. Execution by the veteran of this form will allow local housing authorities to contact their local VSO or veterans services (SSVF) provider who will offer an intervention for the veteran whose tenancy may be at risk. This form should be made available to personnel within your agency who may have contact with the veteran at lease up and re-certification or who may be in a position to issue a notice to quit so that a timely intervention of services can be offered to the veteran.

Please feel free to contact me at laura.taylor@state.ma.us or (617) 573-1289 with any questions. Thank you for your cooperation in support of our veterans.



STATE TEMPLATE

VETERAN'S AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, _____, do hereby authorize the _____ Housing Authority to contact the Agent located in the Veterans Service Office and/or the SSVF provider in the community in which I reside if my tenancy for my unit is at risk due to rent arrearage or other lease violations. The goal is to preserve my housing through the engagement of the local Veterans Services Officer and/or SSVF provider who can provide assistance and referral for services if appropriate.

I understand that the purpose of this general release is to allow the _____ Housing Authority and the Veterans Service Office and/or the SSVF provider in the community in which I reside to collaborate and support my tenancy and reduce the likelihood of an eviction action.

I further understand that I have a right to revoke this Authorization to Release Information at any time and have it removed from my tenant file. I also understand that I am not required to authorize this information be made available to my local Veterans' Services Officer or the SSVF provider.

Signature

Print Name

Street Address

Town

State and Zip Code

Phone

Email Address
