All families in the Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter Program must get Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Checks.

### What is a CORI check?

A CORI check is a background check. It looks to see if you have a criminal history or pending criminal charges in Massachusetts. The Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) is the Massachusetts agency that collects and manages criminal history.

### Who must get a CORI check?

<u>All</u> family members 18 years or older must get a CORI check to be eligible for EA. This applies to families who are:

- applying to EA Family Shelter;
- on the contact list for EA Family Shelter; and
- currently in EA Family Shelter.

#### Why do families need to get CORI checks?

A new law requires CORI checks. We want EA Family Shelter to be safe for families. A CORI Check and sharing your criminal history keeps families in shelter safe.

## What do I need to do for a CORI check?

To sign the CORI Acknowledgment Form, you must:

- Give your name, date of birth, and (if available) the last 6 digits of your Social Security Number.
- Give proof of your identity. More information about this is on the back of this flyer and online.
- Sign and date the form.

#### What happens if I refuse to or cannot get a CORI Check?

If you do not sign the CORI Acknowledgement Form, you will be denied or terminated from EA Shelter. (See back for more information).

# Learn more about CORI Checks at <u>www.mass.gov/ApplyforEA</u> or using this QR Code:





#### What can I use as identification for the CORI check?

We will accept a form of government-issued identification. This includes, for example:

- A passport issued by any country;
- A government-issued identification card with a photograph, such as a driver's license;
- A United States permanent residency card;
- A United States military identification card;
- Native American Tribal documents; and
- Other forms of documents as allowed by DCJIS

#### What if I am unsure if my identity documents can be accepted?

If you do not have any of the government-issued identification forms listed above, EOHLC will review other identity documents you have on a case-by-case basis to determine if they may be accepted.

#### Who should I talk to if I have questions?



Ask your Homeless Coordinator for more information about what documents we accept. A Homeless Coordinator is the person from the state who helps you apply to EA. Call (866) 584-0653 8 a.m. -5p.m. Monday through Friday. A call center representative will refer you to your Homeless Coordinator.

#### What if I have a criminal record or pending criminal charge?

Some crimes will make a person ineligible for the EA program. They may be denied shelter. In some situations, the person may be allowed in shelter but restricted in where they are placed.

#### How will I know if my eligibility for EA is impacted by a CORI?

Before EOHLC takes action because of your criminal record, we will tell you first and give you:

- A Notice of Adverse Action (the document that tells you we are taking action);
- A copy of your CORI record; and
- Information about how you can ask DCJIS to correct your CORI.

