

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Maura T. Healey, Governor ◆ Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor ◆ Edward M. Augustus Jr., Secretary

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## EXTENSION OF DECLARATION – EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FAMILY SHELTER

On October 31, 2023, pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, I issued a Declaration (the Declaration) that the Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter system was no longer able to meet all current and projected demand for shelter from households eligible for EA, considering the facts and circumstances existing in the Commonwealth. Pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, I am hereby extending the Declaration for an additional 120 days, ending on November 8, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, I am required to ensure that the total capacity of the EA system not exceed 4,000 families by December 31, 2025, and continuing at least through December 31, 2026. The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026 provides \$276.4 million for the EA Family Shelter system. In recent years, measures instituted to manage EA system capacity, including limitations on length of stay and prioritizing shelter placements based on clinical risks and needs, have allowed HLC to serve families more effectively and efficiently. The program continues to see significant current and projected demand amidst economic uncertainty, high housing costs, and reduced federal support for the populations served by the EA program, and the system is not able to meet all current and projected demand for EA shelter without the policies put in place through this Declaration. Consistent with Section 8 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, the total capacity of the EA Family Shelter System shall not exceed 4,000 families.

This declaration will remain in effect until November 9, 2025. Any guidance previously issued by EOHLC pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10 to implement the Declaration shall remain in effect so long as this Declaration remains in effect unless sooner revised by EOHLC.

This Extension of Declaration shall be posted on EOHLC's website at <u>Emergency Housing Assistance Programs | Mass.gov</u>.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Secretary

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