



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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March 6, 2026

**EXTENSION OF CAPACITY DECLARATION –
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FAMILY SHELTER**

On November 7, 2025, pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, I issued a capacity 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 capacity Declaration for an additional 120 days, ending on July 3, 2026.

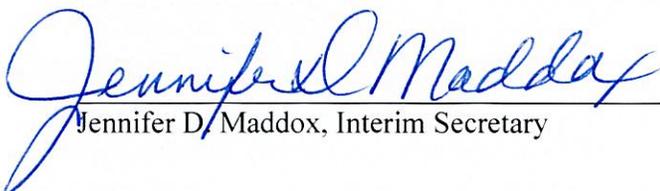
Pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, I am required to ensure that the total capacity of the EA system not exceed 4,000 families by December 31, 2025, and continuing at least through December 31, 2026. The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026 provides \$276.4 million for the EA Family Shelter system.

Governor Healey significantly reformed the Right to Shelter law for the first time in the program's history to reduce capacity and lower costs in the shelter system. Among her major changes to the system include implementing a capacity limit, a length-of-stay limit, a residency requirement, universal criminal background checks, and the closing of all hotel shelters. These measures have allowed EOHLIC to better serve eligible families while lowering costs in the system.

The number of people in the EA shelter system has now been reduced below the level when Governor Healey first took office. The program continues to operate amidst economic uncertainty and reduced federal support for populations served by the EA program. To ensure that we continue the progress we have made—and to operate consistently with available funding, current capacity projections, and Section 8 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025—the total capacity of the EA Family Shelter System shall not exceed approximately 3,200 families.

This declaration will remain in effect until July 3, 2026. Any guidance previously issued by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC) 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 HLC.

This Extension of Declaration shall be posted on HLC's website at [Emergency Housing Assistance Programs | Mass.gov](#).


Jennifer D. Maddox, Interim Secretary