

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

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

March 14, 2025

EXTENSION OF DECLARATION – EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FAMILY SHELTER

On October 31, 2023, pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, as Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, 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. I have determined that the EA family shelter system remains unable to meet all current and projected demand for shelter from households eligible for EA, considering the facts and circumstances existing in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, I am hereby extending the Declaration for an additional 120 days, ending on July 12, 2025.

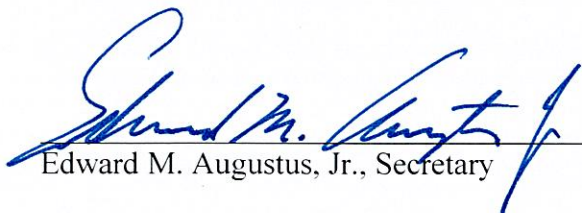
I have made this determination based on the reasons stated in the October 31, 2023 Declaration and the following facts and circumstances:

Since 2023, demand for the Emergency Assistance program in Massachusetts has been expanding at an extraordinary rate, leading Governor Healey to declare a State of Emergency on August 8, 2023. This demand has been driven primarily by surging numbers of newly arriving migrant families, high cost and limited availability of housing, and reduced exits of families from long-term emergency shelter stays. The Commonwealth continues not to have enough space, service providers, or funds to safely to meet the current and projected demand. Prior to receiving an additional \$425 million from the February 2025 supplemental budget, the Emergency Assistance program projected a substantial Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget deficiency and required expenditures beyond the appropriations from the FY25 General Appropriations Act to fund the contracts and services to support the families currently in the system. That supplemental budget provided that by December 31, 2025, the total capacity of the Emergency Assistance program shall not exceed 4,000 families. Based on the facts and circumstances existing in the Commonwealth, including the funding and capacity provisions of the supplemental budget, I have determined that the Emergency Assistance program currently has the capacity to serve 5,800 families. Because I also find that the demand for shelter will exceed this capacity, I am extending this declaration until July 12, 2025.

As I previously determined, the rate of expansion in the Emergency Assistance program prior to October 31, 2023 was unsustainable. Since January 2023, EOHLC engaged in extensive efforts to increase the number of shelter units to meet the need. EOHLC entered into emergency contracts with service providers and sought shelter units across the Commonwealth. It continues not to be possible to secure and maintain space that is suitable and safe for use as shelter beyond the system's current capacity.

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 [Emergency Housing Assistance Programs | Mass.gov](#).



Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Secretary