

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

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

October 25, 2024

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 February 23, 2025.

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

For the past two years, 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. As of today, the Emergency Assistance program is projecting a substantial Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget deficiency and is expected to require expenditures beyond the appropriations from the FY25 General Appropriations Act to fund the contracts and services to support the number of families currently in the system. Expansion of capacity beyond 7,500 families would create a further deficiency.

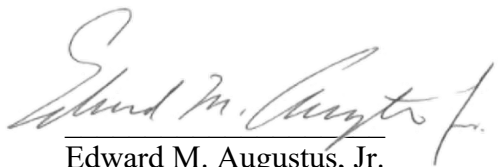
As I previously determined, the rate of expansion in the Emergency Assistance program prior to October 31, 2023 was unsustainable. Since January 2023, EOHLC engaged in extensive efforts to increase the number of shelter units to meet the need. EOHLC entered into emergency contracts with service providers and sought shelter units across the Commonwealth, with shelter units located in approximately 90 cities and towns. It continues not to be possible to secure and maintain space that is suitable and safe for use as shelter beyond a capacity of 7,500 families.

The Commonwealth continues not to have enough space, service providers, or funds to safely expand shelter capacity. For the reasons described above, I determine that the maximum capacity of the Emergency Assistance program is approximately 7,500 families.

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 Declaration shall be in effect from October 26, 2024 to February 23, 2025 and may be further extended pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward M. Augustus, Jr.", written in black ink.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
Secretary