



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

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

February 28, 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.

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 year, and continuing after October 31, 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 in long-term emergency shelter stays. As of today, the Emergency Assistance program remains in a projected Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) deficiency and is expected to require expenditures beyond the appropriations from the FY24 General Appropriations Act, and beyond the supplemental appropriations authorized under Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, to fund the contracts and services to support the number of families currently in the system. As noted by Governor Healey in her filing letter accompanying a supplemental budget request ([H.4284](#)) filed on January 24, 2024, with the program operating at its capacity of 7,500 families, the Emergency Assistance program remains in a deficiency of \$224 million in the current fiscal year. Expansion of capacity beyond 7,500 families would create a further deficiency.

At current rates of application for and exit from EA shelter, demand for shelter would continue to increase to upwards of 9,000 to 10,000 eligible households by fiscal year end. As I previously determined, the rate of expansion in the Emergency Assistance program prior to October 31, 2023 was unsustainable. Since January 2023, EOHLIC engaged in extensive efforts to increase the number of shelter units to meet the need. EOHLIC entered into emergency contracts with service providers and sought shelter units across the Commonwealth, with shelter units located in approximately 90 cities and towns. Given increasingly critical provider shortages, the Governor activated up to 325 members of the Massachusetts National Guard to serve at shelter hotels that would otherwise be unstaffed, lacking coordination of services for food, basic needs, medical, and transportation. It continues not to be possible to secure additional 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 February 29, 2024 to June 28, 2024 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](#).



Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Secretary

February 28, 2024

Date