

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

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

To: Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) and Regional Administering Agencies (RAAs) that

Administer MOBILE Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) Vouchers

From: Ben Stone, Undersecretary, Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance

Date: January 22, 2025

Re: MRVP Mobile Voucher Issuance Pause

As part of Governor's Healey's state budget for fiscal year 2026 and in response to a difficult state fiscal situation, **EOHLC** is pausing the issuance of mobile MRVP vouchers via CHAMP. EOHLC is taking this action to stay within the proposed appropriation while maintaining our commitment to current voucher holders and retaining our ability to support project-based vouchers for new housing development.

This voucher issuance pause applies to all <u>mobile</u> MRVP vouchers issued via CHAMP. This includes underutilized vouchers and vouchers lost due to attrition. Any mobile vouchers that expire or are terminated may not be re-issued. Mobile vouchers may be issued for relocation to current MRVP participants. **Housing agencies may continue to use CHAMP for project-based MRVP vouchers.** CHAMP will also remain open to new applicants.

## <u>Timeline and Key Dates</u>

- As of today, January 22, 2025, LHAs and RAAs may no longer pull any new MRVP mobile lists in CHAMP and may not send out any unsent screening letters from previous list pulls.
- LHAs and RAAs may continue to accept already requested documentation to verify MRVP eligibility through Friday, January 24, 2025. Please be careful to note when documentation was postmarked (if mailed) or uploaded into CHAMP by a participant. Except for verified reasonable accommodations, any verification documents submitted after January 24, 2025 shall not be considered.
- LHAs and RAAs may continue to verify eligibility for MRVP through Friday, January 31,
   2025. LHAs and RAAs may only consider documentation submitted by January 24, 2025.
- Through Friday, February 14, LHAs and RAAs may continue to issue mobile vouchers to households that were fully verified, including a CORI, by January 31, 2025. If, for some reason, you are unable to issue a mobile voucher to a household by 1/31/25, please contact EOHLC.

- Any mobile voucher issued by February 14 may be utilized by the household.
- As of Friday, January 24, 2025, voucher search time will be limited to 120 days with no extensions, except due to reasonable accommodation. Any extensions requested after Friday, January 24, 2025 shall be denied, unless they're a part of a request for reasonable accommodation. Note that this is a change from current policy.
- Housing agencies are encouraged to complete any data entry in CHAMP prior to February 14, 2025. After that date, EOHLC and our vendor will update CHAMP and certain actions may no longer be available.

## **Applicability**

The MRVP mobile voucher issuance pause only applies to mobile MRVP vouchers issued via CHAMP. As such, there are three narrow exceptions to the pause in issuance. RAAs may continue to issue mobile MRVP vouchers to:

- EOHLC direct referrals via the EA/Exit voucher initiative;
- Referrals from Pine Street Inn and Father Bill's Mainspring as part of the Moving On program; and
- Referrals from the Home and Healthy for Good program.

The MRVP mobile voucher issuance pause does not apply to any project-based vouchers.

**EOHLC** permission is required prior to housing agencies issuing mobile MRVP vouchers via administrative transfer. Housing agencies may issue mobile MRVP vouchers via administrative transfer only to households with emergency preference as outlined in Chapter 14 of the MRVP Administrative Plan. This means that housing agencies may not issue mobile MRVP vouchers to households that need an administrative transfer due to being over-housed. Remember that mobile voucher issuance remains an option of last resort when the property owner cannot solve a problem and/or there is an immediate risk to the household's health and safety.

Additionally, housing agencies must alert EOHLC when a mobile voucher is issued for some other irregular reason.

Currently, there are no other program changes for MRVP. Households can continue to utilize the MRVP Security Deposit program.