

Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter Program Eligibility Requirements

What do families need to be eligible for shelter?



Child or Pregnant Person

Family must have at least one child or have a pregnant person in the family.



Income and Assets

Income below 115% FPL (Federal Poverty Limit) and assets below \$5,000.



Qualifying Reason for Homelessness

Family must be homeless due to domestic violence, fire/flood/natural disaster, no fault eviction, or sleeping in an unsafe place.



Lack of Feasible Alternative Housing

Family must have no other safe place to stay.



Citizenship & Immigration Status

All family members must have a qualifying immigration status.



Massachusetts Residency

Family members 18+ must provide documentation to prove they are residents of MA who intend to remain in the state permanently.

What do families need to be placed in shelter?

Placement into shelter is dependent **on shelter availability** and **that you submit the following documents:**



Proof of identity

(i.e., state issued driver's license, birth certificate, or passport)



Proof of family relationship

We need to be able to confirm that you & your children are all part of one family.



Consent to a CORI check and attest to Massachusetts residency and citizenship and immigration status

Learn more about what you need to apply for EA at www.mass.gov/ApplyforEA or using this QR Code:



What documents do I need to apply for EA Family Shelter?

Document Type	Document Examples
Proof of Identity	State issued driver's license, birth certificate, or passport
Proof of family relationship	Birth certificate, custody paperwork
Income & Assets	Pay stubs, bank statements
Massachusetts Residency	MassHealth or public benefit from Massachusetts registration, voter or school registration, any Massachusetts ID, bill or insurance document with a Massachusetts address
Citizenship & Immigration Status	U.S. issued passport, green card, documentation that the United States is aware of the person's presence and is not trying to make the person leave the country right away
Qualifying Reason for Homelessness	Eviction paperwork, documentation showing an inability to stay in your current home due to health, safety, or other reasons
Placement Acknowledgement Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CORI Acknowledgement Form• Massachusetts Residency & Lawful Status Acknowledgement Form

How long can I stay in shelter?



The Length of Stay (time that families can stay in shelter) for families in the Bridge Shelter Track has changed from 9 months to 6 months. You will receive notices about your exit date. The Length of Stay for families in the Rapid Shelter Track is the same – 30 business days. All families should work with their shelter provider to find stable housing.

Who should I talk to if I have questions?



Ask your Homeless Coordinator for more information about what documents we accept. A Homeless Coordinator is the person from the state who helps you apply to EA and determines if you are eligible for the program. Call (866) 584-0653 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A call center representative will refer you to your Homeless Coordinator.

Why are there changes to EA Eligibility?



The state has made changes to the EA Family Shelter Program under a new law that passed. These changes make sure the EA Family Shelter Program is safe and can continue to operate.

