



Massachusetts Executive Office
of Housing and Livable Communities
DIVISION OF HOUSING STABILIZATION

To: Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter Program Staff & Providers

From: Christopher Thompson, *Undersecretary of Division of Housing Stabilization (DHS)*

Date: August 5, 2025

RE: Universal Waiver of 12-Month Bar for Families in the Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program

This universal waiver hereby waives the 12-month bar contained in 760 CMR 67.06(1)(d) and 760 CMR 65.03(3)(a) for families not in bad standing and who are seeking to reapply to either the Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter Program or HomeBASE program following a use of benefits under those programs. Specifically, the waiver applies to:

760 CMR 67.06(1)(d) -- Re-Entry into the EA Family Shelter Program: A family not in bad standing who stayed less than (or the full) Length of Stay¹ limit established by the Massachusetts Legislature in February 2025 (and/or have exhausted any extensions²) in EA Family Shelter, and timely exits³ before seeking to reapply, is considered eligible for this waiver.

Families not in bad standing means a family that does not have a history of repeat noncompliances or terminations on their record. They must not have abandoned their EA Family Shelter or HomeBASE unit. Furthermore, they must have also fully participated in their Rehousing Plan while in the EA Family Shelter. Whether a family is in bad standing is determined at the discretion of EOHLC.

This universal waiver shall be in effect until repealed or amended by the Undersecretary of Housing Stabilization.

¹ Section 3 of chapter 1 of the acts of 2025 amended G.L. c. 23B, § 30, which is the statute governing the EA program. See also EOHLC Guidance on 6-month Length of Stay, updated on 4/11/2025 at the following link: [download](#).

² For example, a hardship application or lease bridge.

³ The Placement Letter provided at intake includes the exit date. The family then receives two reminders about this exit date, in addition to two reminders about hardship waiver application windows.