Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES
Maura T. Healey, Governor ◆ Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor ◆ Edward M. Augustus Jr., Secretary

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

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

Date: October 17, 2025

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

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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 Stay[1] limit established by the Massachusetts Legislature in February 2025 (and/or have exhausted any extensions[2]) in EA Family Shelter, and timely exits[3] 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.

Furthermore, this universal waiver shall not apply to families seeking to reapply to either the EA Family Shelter Program or the HomeBASE program and who have total countable assets in excess of $10,000.

This universal waiver shall be in effect until repealed or amended by the Undersecretary of Housing Stabilization.

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[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.