




Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ◆ Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary

MRVP NOTICE: 2014-01

MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Local Housing Agencies and Regional Non-Profits  
Administering the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)

**From:** Brendan Goodwin, Director, State Rental Assistance Programs 

**Subject:** Full Lifting of MRVP Voucher Re-issuance Freeze

**Date:** July 21, 2014

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I am pleased to inform you that with the passing of the new FY15 Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) budget, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) **is now able to fully lift the freeze** that has restricted the re-issuance of Mobile MRVP vouchers since July of 2008. This freeze was partially lifted in July of 2011 for the turnover of vouchers under lease at the time, but had remained in effect for vouchers that had turned over between 2008-2011.

With the full lifting of this freeze, your housing agency will be able to issue these available vouchers, bringing your utilization up to its full contract potential. Prior to that however, your agency will receive an invitation from DHCD asking you to confirm that your agency is indeed still interested in administering these vouchers, and will be able to expeditiously issue these to families or individuals in need. Once we receive this confirmation, we will immediately notify you what are records indicate are both your contract totals and available vouchers and authorize the issuance of your frozen vouchers. Please be watching for the invitation, as a quick response is necessary. DHCD intends to reallocate any frozen vouchers declined by an LHA/RAA to other administering agencies.

**Local Housing Authorities procedures**

Your agency should use all normal state regulations and procedures in issuing these vouchers. However, we realize that many agencies have either non-existent or outdated MRVP waiting lists. While this long-term issue is being addressed by DHCD, in the interim, we are utilizing the same policy used in the 2011 unfreezing: if there is no MRVP waiting list, or it is out of date, your agency is authorized to use other state-aided housing program waiting lists, or administrative transfers from these programs. Applicants selected from a waiting list other than

a MRVP Mobile voucher list that reject the offer of a Mobile voucher will remain on the applicable waiting list, rather than being automatically dropped. DHCD will provide further guidance to LHAs regarding the use of state-aided public housing waiting lists.

### Regional Non-Profit Agencies procedures

Because regional agencies do not have state public housing lists to utilize as a back-up if there are no functional MRVP waiting lists, an issue DHCD is aware of, there will be additional communications from DHCD in the near future as to how to proceed in issuing any available vouchers.

This is a significant step in our collective goal to improve the lives of low-income families and individuals by offering more rental subsidies. We appreciate the hard work by all of the agencies involved, and as mentioned will be following up with further communication shortly.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please feel free to contact Charlie Vasiliades at (617)-573-1236 for further assistance.