

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Rodrigues and Michlewitz:

Pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Chapter 1 Section 10 of the Acts of 2025, and Chapter 73 Section 88 of the Acts of 2025, we are transmitting to you this bi-weekly report on the Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Secretary Matthew J. Gorzkowicz,  
Executive Office for Administration  
and Finance

Secretary Edward Augustus,  
Executive Office for Housing and  
Livable Communities

## MEMORANDUM

TO: House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means  
FR: Executive Office for Administration and Finance, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities  
DT: February 23, 2026  
RE: Bi-weekly EA report

### Background/Narrative

The table below includes key datapoints outlined in Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024 and Chapter 1 Section 10 of the Acts of 2025. The data is updated as of February 19, 2026. The Administration continues to pursue key activities related to these datapoints below.

### Caseload (values as of 2/19/2026)

Datapoint	Bridge Shelter	Rapid Shelter	Notes
Total families currently in shelters by municipality	1,477	N/A	As of December 18, 2025, all families were placed in Bridge Shelter Track. The Rapid Shelter Track has been deactivated and all Rapid Track programs closed as of January 15, 2026. As of February 19, 2026, an additional 60 families are sheltered in Clinical and Safety Risk Assessment site placements.
Number of families applying for shelter in the previous 14 days	533		Not all families that apply for shelter are eligible.
Number of families who could not provide required verification during application in previous 14 days	233		As of February 19: 233 families who applied between Feb 5 – Feb 19 have not provided required verification.
Number of families who could not provide required verification during application and received a waiver in previous 14 days	59		Between February 5 and February 19: 59 families received a temporary verification waiver and placement pending full eligibility.

<p>Reasons for homelessness for families within EA Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence or abuse: 244</li> <li>• Health and Safety Risk / Ask to Leave, Threatened Eviction: 101</li> <li>• Housing situation not meant for human habitation: 444</li> <li>• Fire, flood, or natural disaster: 15</li> <li>• Asked to leave a Teen Living Program: 14</li> <li>• Other: 432</li> <li>• Eviction: 227</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence or abuse</li> <li>• Health and Safety Risk / Ask to Leave, Threatened Eviction</li> <li>• Housing situation not meant for human habitation</li> <li>• Fire, flood, or natural disaster</li> <li>• Asked to leave a Teen Living Program</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Eviction</li> </ul>
<p>Number of families who previously applied for housing assistance and denial/delays in receiving other assistance</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>Working to collect data for future reporting.</p>
<p>Number of families in Clinical and Safety Risk Assessment (CSRA) sites</p>	<p>60</p>		<p>This currently includes one clinical and safety risk assessment site in Lowell. Families at this site are placed based on site availability and family's health and safety needs.</p>
<p>Number of new student enrollments associated with the EA program in the last 14 days</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>Due to closure of hotel/rapid track sites and the end of municipal school reimbursements, DESE no longer has a method to track this metric. We are working to collect data for future reporting.</p>

Number of families certified pursuant to G.L. Chapter 23B Section 30 paragraph G	1,677	N/A	
Number of families not certified pursuant to G.L. Chapter 23B Section 30 paragraph G	9	N/A	

**EA Contact List (values as of 2/19/2026)**

Datapoint	Bridge Shelter	Rapid Shelter (TRCs)	Notes
Number of families on the EA contact list	10	N/A	This number represents the number of eligible families on the EA contact list.
Number of families on the contact list who have been placed in the last 14 days	92	N/A	Placements from February 5 – February 19
Services provided to families on the EA contact list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter diversion services, including HomeBASE</li> <li>• Family Welcome Center services, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic needs provisions, including but not limited to diapers, wipes, hygiene products, baby formula, and meals</li> <li>○ Employment authorization legal assistance</li> <li>○ Public benefits enrollment</li> <li>○ Vaccinations and health screenings</li> <li>○ Reticketing</li> <li>○ Referrals to other services such as ESOL courses, legal assistance, mental health services, health care services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clinical and Safety Risk Assessment site services for eligible families on the bridge shelter contact list, incl. but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clinical supports and connections to care</li> <li>○ Case management services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

**Exits (values as of 2/19/2026)**

EOHLC provides various resources to support families exiting from EA shelter into long-term stable housing. EA-eligible families have access to the HomeBASE program, which provides financial assistance to pay for rent and other rehousing costs, and related stabilization casework.

Datapoint	Bridge Shelter	Rapid Shelter (TRCs)	Notes
Number of exits from EA in the	93	N/A	Exits from February 5 – February 19

previous 14 days (families)			
Average length of stay in the EA program for families who exited in the previous 14 days	191	N/A	Average length of stay for families who exited between February 5 and February 19
Outcomes for families who exited in the previous 14 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market rate housing: 61</li> <li>• Subsidized housing: 6</li> <li>• Other stable housing: 1</li> <li>• Other: 25</li> </ul>	N/A	Includes exits to market rate housing, subsidized housing, other stable housing. <sup>1</sup>
Number of families who exited due to reaching their length of stay in the previous 14 days	2	N/A	Based on the number of families who are recorded by providers as exiting due to reaching their length of stay, which does not include families who exit into feasible alternative housing or due to other reasons as they approach their LOS date.
Average length of stay in the EA program	133	N/A	Based on families active in EA shelters on 02/19/2026.
Median length of stay in the EA program	98	N/A	Based on families active in EA shelters on 02/19/2026.
Median HomeBASE processing time over last 14d	6.5 days		Based on the median time it takes to process an application from signature to approval, between 2/5/2026 - 2/19/2026 This number has decreased from median processing times of 13 days in November 2024.
Number of families who received a hardship waiver in the previous 14 days	18	N/A	Families who have received a hardship waiver between 02/05/2026 and 02/19/2026.

<sup>1</sup> Market rate housing includes families moving into private market rentals (with or without HomeBASE assistance)  
Subsidized housing programs includes voucher programs, public housing, and other subsidized housing programs at the state and federal level (these families may also use HomeBASE to help with moving costs)  
Other stable housing includes families moving to another stable housing destination, either in or out of state (these families may also use HomeBASE to help with moving costs)  
Other includes families exiting shelter to an unknown housing destination.

**Work Authorizations and Employment (values as of 2/19/2026)**

Datapoint	Bridge Shelter	Rapid Shelter (TRCs)	Notes
Total number of individuals in EA shelter who entered as migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers who have filed for work authorizations	424	N/A	This number includes those captured above who have confirmed receipt of a work permit, as well as those who have filed and are waiting for their application to be processed.  This number does not include individuals who have recently exited EA, so may drop due to individuals with pending work authorizations exiting the system.
Number of individuals in EA shelter who are employed	453		This number does not include individuals who have recently exited EA, so may drop due to individuals who are employed exiting the system.

**Fiscal (values as of 2/19/2026)**

Datapoint	EA System	Notes
Total amount expended from 1599-2625 in FY26	\$39.9 M	Figure includes all spending from A&F reserve 1599-2625 (funded via Transitional Escrow Fund) in FY26. This includes a portion of spending on programs such as HomeBASE and the Family Welcome Center. HomeBASE spending from this reserve is also reported in the “Total amount expended on Exits in FY26” below.
Total amount expended on the Emergency Assistance Housing Program in FY26	\$164.42 M	Figure includes spending from 7004-0101 – Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and Services in FY26. Note: \$2.65 M spent from 7004-4778.
Total amount expended on Exits in FY26	\$119 M	Spending to date includes FY26 HomeBASE spending. Note: \$22.1 M spent from 7004-4778.

Total estimated cost of EA shelter in FY26	The FY26 GAA appropriates \$276.4 M for Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and Services.	
Weekly average per family cost of EA shelter program	\$1,201	Figure based on average shelter provider rates for FY26 contracts.
Current funded capacity of the EA program	Approx. 3,200	The statutory maximum total capacity of the EA program is outlined in the Acts of 2025 Chapter 1 Section 8.
Efforts by A&F to maximize federal support and reimbursement for funds spent on EA	Approval of revised 1115 waiver, which may bring additional reimbursements on certain EA program costs directly to the General Fund. As of December 11, 2025, Massachusetts has collected \$157 M in Federal Financial Participation (FFP) since Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval in April 2024.	