



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING &
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Maura T. Healey, Governor ♦ Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Secretary

October 31, 2023

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

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

The Honorable Jay Livingstone, House Chair
Joint Committee on Children, Families and
Persons with Disabilities
State House, Room 146
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Robyn Kennedy, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Children, Families, and
Persons with Disabilities
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James, House Clerk
Office of the Clerk of the House
State House, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley, Senate Clerk
Office of Clerk of the Senate
State House, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Mr. Clerks:

The emergency assistance (“EA”) shelter system has experienced unprecedented and unsustainable rates of growth in demand in recent months. Today, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (“EOHLC”) issued emergency regulations addressing circumstances, like those now present, in which system capacity is unable to meet current and projected demand for shelter. Those regulations provide that the Secretary of EOHLC may issue a formal declaration and accompanying guidance. Enclosed, please find the regulations and the declaration. The accompanying guidance will be publicly posted in accordance with the regulation. The regulations, declaration, and guidance will not alter eligibility for, or the level of benefits under, the EA program.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward M. Augustus, Jr.'.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
Secretary, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities

Enclosures