



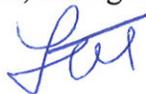
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2010-03

TO: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors

FROM: Laura A. Taylor, Director Bureau of Housing Management

SUBJECT: Applicants for State-Aided Public Housing Receiving Temporary Housing Assistance through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Emergency Assistance Housing Stabilization or Moving to Economic Opportunity Program 

DATE: February 23, 2010

As you are aware, the Commonwealth is working aggressively to reduce its dependency on homeless shelters. Three programs that are part of the Commonwealth's efforts to accomplish this are the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to implement homeless prevention programs, the Emergency Assistance Housing Stabilization Program, which is funded through DHCD's Division of Housing Stabilization (DHS), and the Moving to Economic Opportunity Program (MEOP), which is a collaborative effort between DHCD and the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Please note that the Emergency Assistance Housing Stabilization Program is also commonly referred to as Flex Funds and Tool Box.

HPRP provides financial assistance and services through prevention and diversion to assist individuals and families from entering the shelter system and enables households that do find themselves in shelters or motels/hotels to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The Emergency Assistance Housing Stabilization Program provides homeless families with temporary rental supports and case management for up to 12 months while the family transitions into sustainable housing. MEOP provides time-limited rental assistance to eligible homeless families in shelters who are participating in DTA job training and education programs. The goal is to provide transitional support and employment services to assist families moving from homelessness and unemployment to housing and economic self sufficiency.

Any family applicant for state-aided public housing that is participating in one of these programs should be considered homeless as these are transitional programs for families who are without permanent housing. Therefore, applicants who are currently on an LHA's waiting list with a homeless priority should NOT lose their priority status as a result of their participation in any of these transitional programs. Program participants applying for the first time should complete a Universal Standard Application and a Universal Emergency Application. Applications should be processed consistent with the LHA's standard review and approval procedures for tenant selection. This includes verification of priority status.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact your Housing Management Specialist for your area.