



**SUPPORT PASSAGE OF
HOUSE BILL 529
TO STRENGTHEN
EMERGENCY AID TO THE
ELDERLY, DISABLED
AND CHILDREN (EAEDC)**

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, 15 Bubier St., Lynn, MA 01938, 781-595-7570, www.mahomeless.org 9/28/15

Organizational Endorsement Form Campaign to Strengthen Assistance for the Participants of the Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) Program

By completing this form, I/we (your name/affiliate organization's name) _____ would like to be listed as an organizational endorser and receive updates on the Campaign to Strengthen EAEDC (Emergency Assistance to Elderly, Disabled, and Children) Assistance. Some of the areas we seek to strengthen are:

- 1. Increase the EAEDC grant to equal the TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children) grant for a single individual adult at \$428 (with a rent allowance):** The typical monthly grant of \$303.70 has not been increased since 1988. While EAEDC is a vital lifeline for program participants, the benefit levels are very low. We are proposing to match the levels provided under the TAFDC program for households of comparable size, so that, for example, one person on EAEDC could receive up to \$428/month (with rent allowance).
- 2. Remove the shelter deduction in the allocated monthly grants for individual program participants:** EAEDC program participants who are experiencing homelessness receive a reduced grant of \$91.60 per month; this monthly grant is significantly lower than the current grant for individuals who have housing and is clearly insufficient to allow these participants to meet their most basic needs. By eliminating this grant reduction, EAEDC recipients experiencing homelessness (in or out of a shelter), will not be further financially disrupted, and may be able to transition into a more stable living arrangement sooner.
- 3. Raise the monthly EAEDC assets limit from \$250 to \$2,500:** Letting an individual have more than \$250 in total monthly assets will allow more EAEDC participants to have assets and to move toward housing stability (by being better able to afford ongoing rent, first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposit payments). The bill language also would exclude the first \$15,000 in a vehicle's value when determining the asset limit (as in the TAFDC program), so that more EAEDC applicants with cars can approved—which is especially vital in areas with limited or no public transportation
- 4. Create and annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to EAEDC and TAFDC program participants:** Building in a COLA so that DTA (Dept. of Transitional Assistance) can provide increased benefits in response to the wider economic conditions would ensure that participants do not fall behind further economically from year to year.

To submit this endorsement form online and receive regular updates on this campaign, please click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/eaedc-form> or fill out the required information and email it to Sr. Linda Bessom SND, linda@mahomeless.org.

Name of Organization: _____
Organization Contact Person/ Title _____
Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address of Organization: _____ City: _____ MA Zip: _____

For questions please contact Sister Linda Bessom at linda@mahomeless.org, or call the Coalition for the Homeless at 781-595-7570 x 18. For more information on this and other campaigns, please visit <http://mahomeless.org/advocacy/present-policy-campaigns>.