



Please support strengthening the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) program in Fiscal Year 2019 for households experiencing homelessness and housing instability. (Line item 4408-1000)

What is the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program?

The Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program is a state-funded cash assistance and benefits program providing support to approximately 19,000 extremely low-income individuals, administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).

Who are EAEDC program participants?

- Extremely low-income adults 65 years of age or older who are in the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Adults experiencing disabilities that inhibits their ability to work for at least 60 days
- Participants in the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's programs certain caretakers of children who are not eligible to receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program benefits or caretakers of adults with severe disabilities
- Lawfully present immigrants who are residents of Massachusetts

What is the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction?

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program participants who are experiencing homelessness, in or out of shelter, receive a reduced grant of only \$92.80. This monthly grant is 70% lower than the \$303.70 average monthly grant for individuals who have housing. It clearly is insufficient for these participants to meet even their most basic needs.

How would removing the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction improve the lives of EAEDC participants?

The EAEDC program is currently providing support to almost 19,000 extremely low-income individuals. On average, there are 551 EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness each month. By allowing EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness (in or out of shelter) to receive the full EAEDC grant, their lives would not be further financially disrupted, and they might be able to transition into a more stable living arrangement sooner.

What is the estimated cost of removing the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction?

Based on the average number of participants subject to the homelessness penalty each month, it would cost the state \$1.39 million to provide full EAEDC benefits to participants experiencing homelessness. We recommend an increase of \$1.5 million, in line item 4408-1000, to account for any increases in homelessness among EAEDC participants in FY'19.

Please join the Coalition in our efforts to remove the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction to help more low-income households across the Commonwealth to have a safe, stable place to call home!

Please join the Coalition and partners in our efforts to remove the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction for EAEDC participants in FY'19!



" Our program participants seek to obtain and retain housing in a fiercely challenging housing/real estate environment. Homelessness profoundly stresses safety and health, in a myriad of ways - exposure to crime and weather, physical and mental trauma, uncertainty and loss of control over the most basic aspects of life like food and sleep - and the women in our programs already face compromises and trade-offs that well-off people would find unthinkable. It is irrational to expect positive results by adding to the financial challenges of people whose economic condition is already so compromised that they have lost their housing. Furthermore, if any justification is needed beyond a wealthy society's determination to not abandon the least powerful - research shows that this false "thrift" actually results in higher costs to society, e.g. in publicly-financed medical care and law enforcement." - On The Rise, Inc.

Current Organizational Endorsers:

Abby's House, Action, Inc., Allston-Brighton Health, Arise for Social Justice, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Boston Center for Independent Living, Catholic Charities, Catholic Social Services, City Mission, Coastline Elderly Services, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Community Action Inc. of Haverhill, Community Day Center of Waltham, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), Eliot Church of Newton, Emmaus, Inc., Father Bills and MainSpring, First Church Shelter, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Haley House, Housing Families Inc., Lowell Transitional Living Center, Mass Alliance of Hud Tenants, Mass Home Care Association, Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP), Massachusetts Association of Residential Care Homes, Massachusetts Catholic Conference, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, My Brother's Table, North Shore Coalition for Peace and Justice, On the Rise, Inc., Our Father's House Pilgrim Church, United Church of Christ - Sherborn, Poor People's United Fund, Samaritan Steps, Sisters of St. Anne - Social Concerns Committee, Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, Springwell, The Psychological Center, The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, and Women's Lunch Place.

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