



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
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 Governor

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 Secretary

KERRY HEALEY  
 Lieutenant Governor

JOHN A. WAGNER  
 Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2003-12**  
**April 24, 2003**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**From:** *C.D.*  
*(K.A.)* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**Re:** No New Section 8 Vouchers

**Overview**

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been informed by the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency that, until further notice, **no new Section 8 Vouchers will be issued by its network of Regional Housing Authorities.** This ruling does not impact families who currently have a Section 8 Voucher.

**Informing Applicants/ Recipients**

AU Managers should tell all applicants and recipients about the freeze on issuing Section 8 Vouchers. **Share this information at applications, reevaluations, case maintenance activities, case conferences, shelter visits or any other appropriate time.**

AU Managers should advise families of the following:

- At this time, this freeze does not impact a family who has been issued a Section 8 Voucher but has not leased an apartment. Such family should be advised to lease an apartment as soon as possible. Section 8 Vouchers expire 120 days from the date of issuance and there is no guarantee if and/or how long the vouchers will continue to be reissued.
- A family in shelter whose eligibility is ending due to income will not be able to receive special consideration for a Section 8 Voucher to help the family find housing within the established 40-day period. If the family has a Section 8 Voucher that is valid, it still can be used to subsidize the rental cost of an apartment.

**Informing Applicants/ Recipients (continued)**

- Families, with or without a Section 8 Voucher, may need to relocate to another area of the state where rental rates are more affordable. Families should be encouraged to seek affordable housing wherever it exists and be prepared to move where that housing is.
- Without a Section 8 Voucher, it becomes very important for the family to have another source of income for meeting the cost of a market-rate apartment. Employment should be emphasized for every able-bodied adult whether receiving cash, food stamp or shelter benefits. For an EA AU, getting or maintaining a job would be an activity on the EA AU's Self-Sufficiency Plan.

**Note:** AU Managers should continually review a family's current housing situation in an effort to prevent homelessness due to nonpayment of rent. The AU Manager, when meeting with a family, should ensure that the rental amounts are paid up-to-date and if not, take appropriate action to establish vendor payments.

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**HAP Providers**

The Department is working with the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) providers to ensure they are responding to this change appropriately and assisting families in looking for market-rate apartments statewide. The Department has asked that the HAP providers increase their efforts to locate affordable housing within their service areas and statewide.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617- 348-8483.

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