

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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**DEVAL L. PATRICK**  
GOVERNOR

**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 29, 2009

Dear Legislators:

In response to the approved Article 87 reorganization passed by the Legislature in March 2009, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) have been working diligently to transfer the emergency shelter system from DTA to DHCD. This change, which is slated to take effect on July 1, 2009, is a major step in reforming the housing and shelter systems in order to reduce homelessness in the Commonwealth. We want to thank our partners in the legislature whose commitment to serving vulnerable populations made this new policy possible and we are confident that this transition will be a smooth one.

Combining housing and shelter will create a single point of entry, assessment, and access to housing solutions for individuals and families who are already homeless or who are at-risk of losing their housing. The consolidation will also provide an expanded array of prevention and diversion resources and inform the housing production agenda by identifying specific housing supply needs. This effort will carry out the recommendations of the Commission to End Homelessness and will make it easier to identify and address gaps in services available to extremely low-income households.

In order to serve homeless or at-risk individuals and families, DHCD has formed the Division of Housing Stabilization, and the Central Office will be located at 100 Cambridge Street in Boston. The new Division will be comprised of five regional areas staffed by former DTA supervisors and case managers. Within the regions, former DTA field staff will serve as DHCD workers, located in designated DTA offices to accommodate applicants and outgoing clients applying for and receiving Emergency Assistance (EA) benefits from the Division of Housing Stabilization.

The application process for shelter will remain the same. If you have a constituent in need of emergency shelter services, please refer him to speak to a DHCD worker at the local DTA office. Please note that the phone numbers for the DHCD workers at the local offices is attached. Interested applicants can also call the Division of Housing Stabilization toll-free at (877) 418-3308.

As part of this transition, DTA will still provide ancillary services to homeless/formerly homeless individuals and families- including cash and food assistance and employment supports. In addition, DTA staff members who have experience working with homeless families will serve as liaisons to DHCD to ensure coordinated supports. DTA remains committed to helping families increase their levels of economic self-sufficiency so they are able to move more quickly into permanent housing. Please note that

other agencies such as the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Health will continue to provide additional wrap-around services for families.

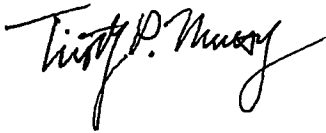
Families currently in shelter will be advised of these changes on or before July 1, 2009. Services provided to these families will not be impacted.

In the future, if you have any housing or homelessness related inquiries, please contact:

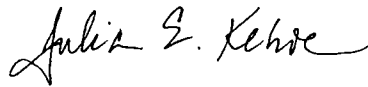
Seamus Kelley, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Housing and Community Development  
Phone: 617-573-1105  
Email: [Seamus.Kelley@state.ma.us](mailto:Seamus.Kelley@state.ma.us)

Thank you for all of your efforts to assist homeless and at-risk individuals and families. We appreciate your patience during this transition and look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the lives of low-income residents of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor



Julia E. Kehoe  
Commissioner  
Department of Transitional Assistance



Tina Brooks  
Undersecretary  
Department of Housing and  
Community Development