

HOUSING SITUATION PRIORITY PLAN FOR LHAS

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PURPOSE. Through this Plan, the LHA seeks to establish a fair and uniform standard to be applied to all applicants for Housing Situation Priority Status to the end that similarly situated applicants will receive similar treatment. Requirements as to evidence, documentation and verification employed by the LHA in making determinations of Housing Situation Priority Status shall be reasonable in relation to the realistic capacity and resources of the applicant.

II. DEFINITION OF HOMELESS APPLICANT. As required by 760 CMR 5.11 and consistent with the definition in 5.03, the LHA shall define a "Homeless Applicant" as an applicant who has been or is imminently faced with displacement from his/her "Primary Residence" as a result of circumstances described in Section III below, and who:

- (A) is without a place to live or is in a living situation in which there is a significant immediate and direct threat to the life or safety of the applicant or a household member which situation would be alleviated by placement in an appropriate unit; and
- (B) has made reasonable efforts to locate alternative housing; and
- (C) has not caused or substantially contributed to the safety- or life threatening situation; and
- (D) has pursued available ways to prevent or avoid the safety- or life threatening situation by seeking assistance through the courts or appropriate administrative or enforcement agencies.

"Primary Residence" is defined by 760 CMR 5.03 as the principal home (domicile) intended to be occupied by all members of an applicant household not less than nine months of the year.

III. THE LHA SHALL GRANT PRIORITY 4 –HOUSING SITUATION PRIORITY STATUS to an otherwise eligible and qualified "Homeless Applicant" who meets the definition in Section II above, and who is displaced from his/her "Primary Residence" under the following circumstances:

(A) **Homeless and Facing a Significant Immediate and Direct Threat to the Life or Safety of the Applicant or any Household Member for Causes Other Than the Fault of the Applicant or Member of the Applicant Household.** Applicants are "homeless and facing a significant immediate and direct threat to life or safety" if they meet the definition set out in Section II above. "Causes other than the fault of the applicant or member of the applicant household" shall mean causes outside their reasonable control, including an eviction because of a condominium conversion or rehabilitation of the property or because the landlord wants the unit for his own or family use, and other circumstances as determined by the LHA.

(B) **Severe Medical Emergencies.** An applicant is suffering a severe medical emergency if the applicant or member of the applicant household is determined by the LHA to suffer from an illness or injury posing a severe and medically documented threat to life or safety which has been significantly caused by the



1. Requirement of Paragraph 1:
The loss of housing was not caused by the fault of the applicant or household member.
2. Requirements of Paragraph 2:
 - a. the applicant or a member of the applicant household is suffering an illness or injury which poses a severe and medically documented threat to life or safety; and
 - b. the medical emergency has either been significantly caused by lack of suitable housing or lack of suitable housing is a substantial impediment to treatment or recovery.
3. Requirements of Paragraph 3:
 - a. The applicant or a member of the applicant household is the victim of abuse as defined in Section III (C); and
 - b. the abuse constitutes a significant immediate and direct threat to life or safety of the applicant or a member of the applicant household.

If the criteria in Sections V (A) and (B) and the requirements of Paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of Section V (C) above have been met, then:

- (D) Determine whether the applicant is eligible under the standards set forth in 760 CMR 5.06 and 5.07.
- (E) Determine whether the applicant is qualified under the standards set forth in 760 CMR 5.08.

