

Notice to All Applicants¹:
**Information Regarding Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault,
Dating Violence, And Stalking in State-Aided Public Housing**

- **Protections for applicants:**
 - An applicant for state-aided public housing generally may not be denied admission because the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence.
 - When a Local Housing Authority (LHA) determines that an applicant may be disqualified for housing because of a lease violation at a prior tenancy, including damage, disturbance, or nonpayment of rent, the applicant may show as mitigating circumstances that the applicant was a victim of domestic violence and that the violation was caused by the abuser.
 - These protections also apply to victims of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

- **Abusive Situation priority:**
 - Applicants who are homeless or who are at risk of displacement as a result of “abuse”/domestic violence may qualify for a state-aided public housing priority (Priority 4(C), “Abusive Situation”) in accordance with the [Housing Situation Priority Policy for LHAs](#) and the “Checklist of Required Verification Documents for Housing Situation Priority Status” available in CHAMP and at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/how-to-apply-for-public-housing>).

- **Resources:**
 - SafeLink (877) 785-2020 or <http://www.casamyrna.org/chat> (includes options for the Deaf and hard of hearing), the state domestic violence hotline. SafeLink is a toll-free domestic violence Massachusetts hotline that provides callers 24/7 live response in English, Spanish, Portuguese, with access to translation in more than 130 languages. See also <http://www.casamyrna.org> .
 - The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (1-800-787-3224 (TTY) for persons with hearing impairments).
 - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network’s National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>).
 - National Center for Victims of Crime’s Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

¹ The term “applicant” generally includes members of the applicant household.