Notice to All Applicants:

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/).

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