

10 Point Plan to Address the Practice of Placing Homeless Families in Hotels

1.) Require the Department of Housing and Community Development to submit a report to the legislature within 30 days that will detail a plan to eliminate the policy of housing homeless families in hotels and motels within 1 year.

- **This will eliminate an ineffective policy that costs taxpayers nearly \$36 million per year**

2.) Develop specific residency requirements for families seeking shelter.

- **Require the person seeking shelter to provide a minimum of 1 piece of documentation that clearly shows that their last known address is inside Massachusetts. For example: utility bill, bank statement, driver's license.**

3.) Change current language that states that a woman automatically qualifies for emergency family shelter once she becomes pregnant to once the woman gives birth. A pregnant woman would still be eligible for standard homeless shelters up to that point. (a shelter provides better structure and resources for a pregnant woman as she is preparing for birth).

4.) Remove language that states that DHCD does not have authority to make regulatory changes to their policies regarding homelessness unless the account is running at a deficit.

5.) Waive the 20 mile rule that states a family must be placed within 20 miles of their last known address.

6.) Families will only receive 1 option. If option is refused, they must wait 1 year before reapplying for shelter.

7.) If DHCD places a family in a hotel, DHCD will be responsible for notifying the communities Health Department and Police Department, and School Department (if school aged children) within 24 hours of placement.

8.) DHCD must conduct a search of all open shelter space that is currently idle in Massachusetts. If a shelter is available, but not being utilized and is up to code, DHCD must ask for RFP.

9) If DHCD places a family with a child under the age of 3 in a hotel or motel, it must notify Dept of Child and Family Services. Dept of Child and family Services must then contact the hotel, to ensure that the room that is being provided is equipped with a crib that meets all safety codes. Dept of Child and family services must then inspect the room within 24 hours of placement. If the hotel has failed to provide a crib that meets proper standards, it will be subject to a \$10,000 fine.

10.) The Department of Housing and Community Development will be required to reimburse communities for each pupil that is bused out of district while placed in a hotel. Each school

department must keep a list of students that are being bused from a hotel to a neighboring community and submit a request for payment on a quarterly basis.