What is the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program?
The Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program is a state-funded cash assistance and benefits program providing support to approximately 19,500 extremely low-income individuals, administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).

Who are EAEDC program participants experiencing homelessness?
- Extremely low-income adults 65 years of age or older who are in the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Adults experiencing disabilities that inhibits their ability to work for at least 60 days
- Lawfully present immigrants who are residents of Massachusetts

What is the homelessness penalty/shelter reduction?
Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) program participants who are experiencing homelessness, in or out of shelter, receive a reduced grant of only $92.80. This monthly grant is 70% lower than the $303.70 average monthly grant for individuals who have housing. It clearly is insufficient for these participants to meet even their most basic needs.

What would the House’s EAEDC language do?
The House language, initially included in the House Ways and Means budget, would remove the homelessness penalty, and allow participants to receive the full monthly grant even if they are without housing costs. The House also added $1.4 million to cover the anticipated annual cost of this change.

Each month, DTA is penalizing an average of 542 EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness (FY’18 data year-to-date). By allowing EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness (in or out of shelter) to receive the full EAEDC grant, their lives would not be further financially disrupted, and they might be able to transition into a more stable living arrangement sooner.
Current organizational endorsers:

Abby's House, Action, Inc., Allston-Brighton Health, Arise for Social Justice, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Boston Center for Independent Living, Catholic Charities, Catholic Social Services, City Mission, Coastline Elderly Services, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Community Action Inc. of Haverhill, Community Day Center of Waltham, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), Eliot Church of Newton, Emmaus, Inc., Father Bills and MainSpring, First Church Shelter, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Haley House, Housing Families Inc., Lowell Transitional Living Center, Mass Alliance of Hud Tenants, Mass Home Care Association, Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP), Massachusetts Association of Residential Care Homes, Massachusetts Catholic Conference, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, My Brother's Table, North Shore Coalition for Peace and Justice, On the Rise, Inc., Our Father's House Pilgrim Church, United Church of Christ - Sherborn, Poor People’s United Fund, Samaritan Steps, Sisters of St. Anne - Social Concerns Committee, Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, Springwell, The Psychological Center, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, and Women's Lunch Place.

Please join the Coalition in our efforts to remove the homelessness penalty to help more low-income households across the Commonwealth to have a safe, stable place to call home by actively supporting the House’s EAEDC language in the Conference Committee budget!

For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless: Kelly Turley, kelly@mahomeless.org, x17.