

Memorandum

To: House Committee on Appropriations
CC: Maria Belliveau
From: Ken Schatz
Date: March, 6, 2020
**Subject: Draft Policy Language for delayed implementation of
Emergency Housing initiative**

The Committee had asked the Department for Children and Families to offer draft budget policy language pertaining to delayed implementation of the Emergency Housing Transition.

If the Committee chooses to proceed in that direction, the Department recommends including budget policy language in the Appropriations bill as follows:

- (a) Funds appropriated to the Agency of Human Services in the General Assistance program in fiscal year 2021 may be used for temporary housing in catastrophic situations and for vulnerable populations, as defined in rules adopted by the Agency. The Commissioner for Children and Families may, by policy, provide temporary housing for a limited duration in adverse weather conditions when appropriate shelter space is not available. [*this is existing language from prior fiscal years*]
- (b) The Commissioner shall continue supporting regional planning processes in preparation for implementing a statewide, community-based emergency housing system effective April 1, 2021. Operation of the General Assistance motel voucher program under current rules shall continue July 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. Effective April 1, 2021 current General Assistance emergency housing rules are repealed. The Commissioner shall provide an update detailing the progress towards implementation to the House Committees on Appropriations; General, Housing, & Military Affairs; and Human Services; and the Senate Committees on Appropriations; Economic Development, Housing, & General Affairs; and Health and Welfare by December 15, 2020.

The previous year's Budget Bill language in E.321.1(a)(b)(c) as passed would also need to remain intact to accompany the above.

