

EA ADVOCACY GUIDE

About MLRI

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute is a statewide legal advocacy and support center. Our mission is to represent low-income people, persons with disabilities, and elders in their struggle for basic human needs; to defend against policies and actions that harm and marginalize people living in poverty; and to advocate for systemic reforms that achieve social and economic justice. Our activities include advice, litigation, policy analysis, research, technical assistance and public information.

Acknowledgments

MLRI dedicates this Guide -- the first stand-alone version of an Emergency Assistance (EA) Advocacy Guide -- to the low-income children and their families for whom it was written. We thank all the advocates for children and families in Massachusetts who help homeless children and their families obtain the benefits for which they are eligible and who work to preserve and protect basic benefits for people in poverty.

Special thanks go to Kelly Turley of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Steve Valero of Greater Boston Legal Services, and Lena Wilson, Caroline Robinson and Gale Halpern of MLRI for their input into this Guide. Thanks also go to Deborah Harris and Patricia Baker of MLRI, Dick Bauer of Greater Boston Legal Services, and Emily Herzig of Neighborhood Legal Services for their past work on the EA sections of the *TAFDC and EA Advocacy Guide*, on which this Guide is based.

September 2009