



Norfolk Community Meeting

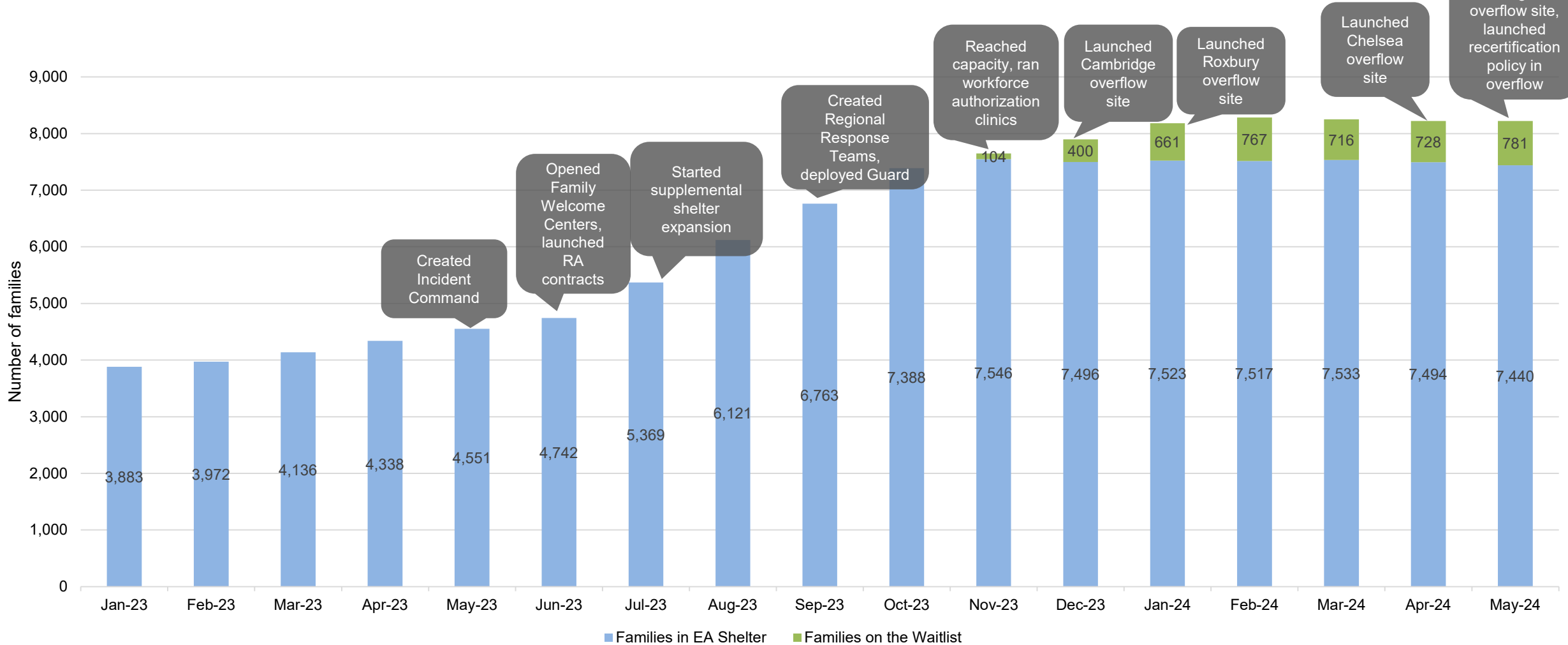
Bay State Overflow Shelter Overview

June 4, 2024

Caseload has more than doubled since the beginning of the Healey-Driscoll Administration which has necessitated additional interventions and support



Families in EA Waitlist and Shelter: January 2023 – May 2024



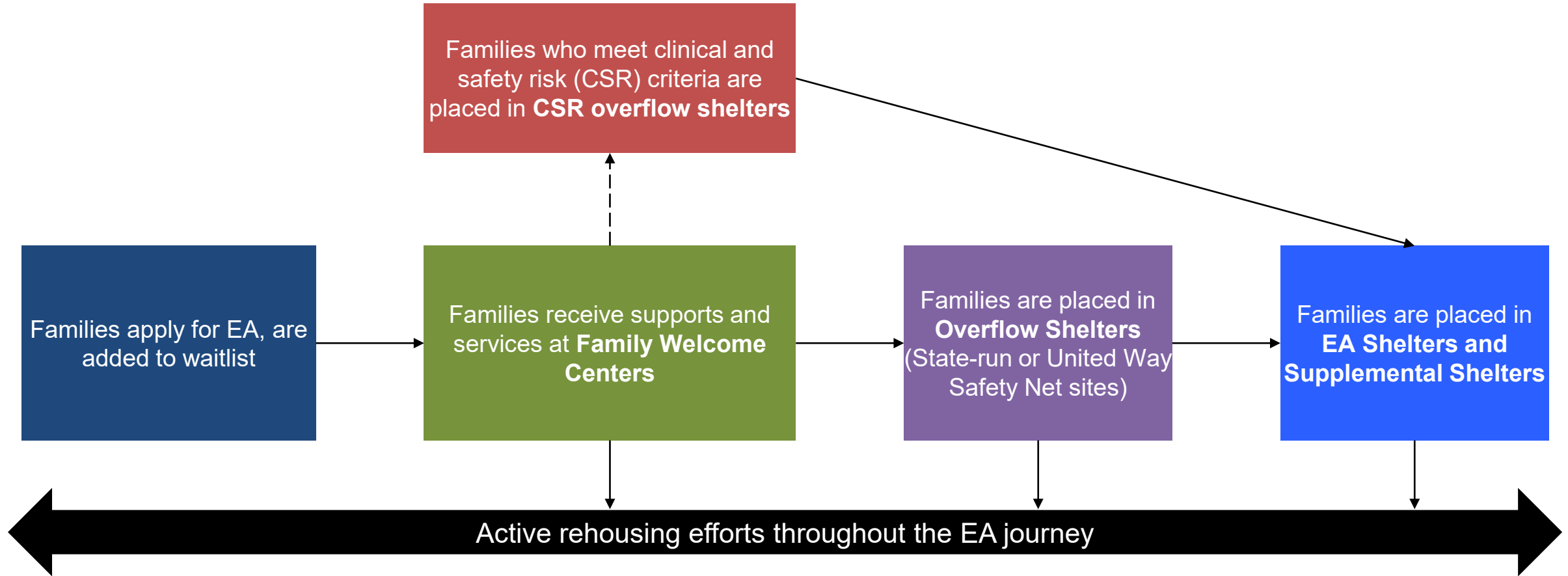
DRAFT FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. ANY USE OF THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE OWNER IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

The EA Family Shelter System exists as a temporary space for families as they search for their next place to live



As of May 2024



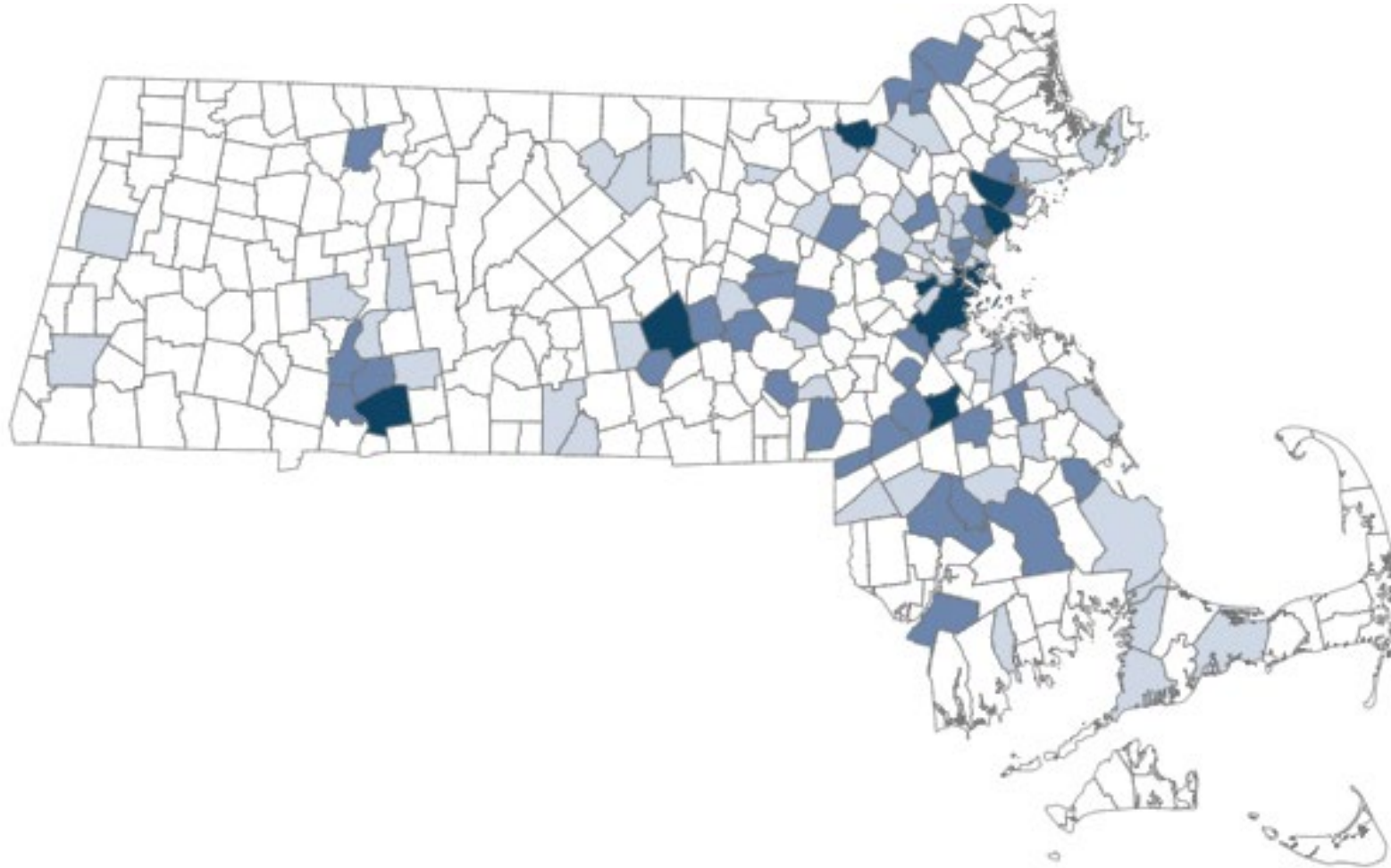
DRAFT FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. ANY USE OF THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE OWNER IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Enrolled EA Families are staying in shelters and supplemental shelters across Massachusetts



As of May 29, 2024



● Between 1 and 50 Families Enrolled ● Between 51 and 200 Families Enrolled ● Over 200 Families Enrolled

DRAFT FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. ANY USE OF THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE OWNER IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

The Former Bay State Correctional Center is being repurposed to meet needs of families experiencing homelessness



- **Over 350 sites** have been evaluated as potential candidates for overflow shelters since the issuance of EA Family Declaration in October 2023
- The **decrease of MA's prison population** due to **criminal justice reform** has resulted in less correctional facilities
- Decommissioned correctional facilities are often **repurposed for alternative uses**
- The former correctional center was a minimum-security **dorm-like facility** that has remained in **good condition** since its decommissioning in 2015
- Bay State will be repurposed and adapted to provide **temporary, emergency safety net site to families experiencing homelessness**



Building exterior



Cafeteria



Example interior setup (from an existing overflow shelter)



Bay State Site Overview

Proposed opening date: Mid-June 2024

Duration: ~6 - 12 months

Capacity: 450 individuals (140 families)

Eligibility: All families with children or pregnant individuals approved for Emergency Assistance shelter and on the waitlist

Shelter provider: Heading Home, an MA-based shelter provider, will have 24/7 staffing to oversee day-to-day operations and engagement with families

Services provided:

- Food – 3 meals per day
- Intensive case management and on-site supports focused on housing stability, work authorization preparation and transition from the Emergency Assistance system
- 24/7 on-site security
- School enrollment support
- Basic necessities (diapers, formula, hygiene items, etc.)
- Health services including on-site medical screening, vaccinations, and referrals for prenatal and primary care
- Enrollment benefits (food and cash assistance, MassHealth, WIC)
- Transportation



Public Health, Safety & Emergency Response Overview

| | |
|--|--|
| Who is responsible for public safety matters on-site? | Because Bay State is located on state-owned land, Massachusetts State Police will have jurisdiction over any public safety matters on campus. |
| What is the vetting process for adult family members? | <p>Families must be determined eligible for Emergency Assistance shelter by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, which requires specific documentation, including a documented immigration status, before being added to the EA waitlist and referred to an overflow site.</p> <p>All adults undergo background checks prior to placement in an overflow site.</p> |
| Will the site be staffed by security personnel? | Plain-clothes, unarmed security staff will be on-site 24/7. In addition to ensuring the safety & security of families, security will also be responsible for enforcing site curfew hours. |
| Are these individuals vaccinated? | Shelter service provider staff will coordinate with the Department of Public Health to ensure that families are up to date on vaccinations, including by hosting on-site vaccination clinics as needed. |
| Will there be increased EMS demand and how will the State mitigate impact to Norfolk residents? | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Families with high-risk individuals referred to Clinical Safety & Risk Assessment sites2. Rapid Response Team nursing staff on-site 5-days/week to start3. MassHealth enrollment, primary & preventative care services on-site4. Supplement ambulance capacity with dedicated detail for Bay State during local events with large crowds |
| Will Norfolk be reimbursed for provision of emergency services? | Ambulance rides are reimbursable through MassHealth. Other expenditures & impacts will be addressed as they arise – the presence of an on-site service provider has significantly mitigated need for local services at other sites. |