



METROWEST HOUSING MATTERS



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF *METROWEST HOUSING MATTERS*, THE METROWEST HOUSING COALITION'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ABOUT US

>>> THE METROWEST HOUSING COALITION

The MetroWest Housing Coalition is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to support access to affordable housing in the region. We collaborate to share resources, engage in advocacy opportunities, and address systemic barriers to housing stability. The MetroWest Housing Coalition is convened by the MetroWest Care Connection.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ON HOUSING IN MW <<<

We are thrilled to announce our **new quarterly newsletter!** We will share updates, resources, and housing-related events within the MetroWest community! Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter to stay connected with us!

**OUR
NEWSLETTER**



EXCITING UPDATES

>>> MA COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTHY AGING FUNDS RECEIPT

We are excited to share that we have received a 5 year grant through the MA Community Health and Healthy Aging (MACHHA) funds! This funding will allow us to expand the Coalition's work, including:

- Diversifying Coalition membership to include MetroWest residents.
- Enhancing the Housing Toolkit.
- Amplifying advocacy efforts at both the local and state levels.
- Launching a Peer-Housing Specialist Pilot Program.

As our first multi-year grant, this MACHHA funding will be instrumental in elevating our work to the next level.

**LOOKING FOR HOUSING
RESOURCES? CHECK
OUT OUR HOUSING
TOOLKIT**



>>> WE ARE HIRING!

We're hiring a full-time Community Organizer! This role is essential in expanding and diversifying our Coalition membership by engaging residents with lived experience of housing insecurity. We are looking for a passionate individual with a strong connection to the MetroWest region. Join us in making a difference in the community!

Reach out to Cayden Davis at 508-861-8285 or cadavis@bhpmw.info to learn more.



STAY INFORMED

>>> POLICY UPDATES

As of August 1, 2024, the Healey administration implemented policy changes to the MA Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter system that affect families who do not meet the EA priority criteria.

Under the new rules, these families are presented with two difficult options: they can stay in a temporary respite center for up to 5 days, but this decision will remove them from the EA waitlist for 6 months. Alternatively, they can choose to remain on the EA waitlist, but will not be able to access the temporary respite center during that time.

For families who have received EA shelter placement: there is now a 9-month time limit to transition out of shelter and into stable housing.

- To get involved in advocacy for families experiencing homeless, visit: <https://www.mahomeless.org/protect-access-to-shelter>

>>> RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



The Local Initiative for Family Empowerment (LIFE) program, offered by Family Promise MetroWest, provides crucial homelessness prevention and diversion services for families facing eviction. Through financial assistance, resource navigation, and personalized wraparound services, LIFE helps families stabilize their housing situations before a crisis occurs. This proactive approach not only preserves housing for vulnerable families but also strengthens individual and community resilience by reducing the likelihood of future homelessness.

Stable housing is a critical factor for positive health outcomes, as housing insecurity is closely linked with stress, poor mental health, and limited access to healthcare. By keeping families in their homes, the LIFE program supports overall well-being and reduces the health impacts associated with homelessness and housing instability. LIFE's impact is evident, with 100% of LIFE families avoiding shelter entry. For more information about the LIFE program, please contact intake@familypromisemetrowest.org or 508-318-4820.

STAYING CONNECTED

**VISIT THE METROWEST HOUSING
COALITION LINKTREE:**

