



METROWEST HOUSING MATTERS



WELCOME TO *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're excited to share the **second edition** of our quarterly newsletter! Inside, you'll find updates on housing initiatives, valuable community resources, and upcoming events in MetroWest. Stay informed and connected by subscribing to our newsletter!

OUR
NEWSLETTER





EXCITING UPDATES

➤➤➤ THE MW HOUSING COALITION IS SEEKING RESIDENT MEMBERS

The MetroWest Housing Coalition continues to grow as a collaborative space for housing advocacy, bringing together service providers and community partners to address housing challenges in our region. As we expand our efforts, we are looking for resident members to join the conversation and help shape solutions that reflect lived experiences.

Through monthly meetings, members will:

- 📢 Speak Out – Share firsthand experiences and concerns to inform housing advocacy.
- 🤝 Connect – Work alongside neighbors, local organizations, and policymakers.
- 🔧 Collaborate – Help develop and advocate for policies that promote housing stability and equity.

Resident voices are critical to this work. Whether you have faced housing challenges yourself or just want to be part of the solution, we welcome you to get involved. Your input will help drive meaningful change in how our community addresses housing needs.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the coalition, please scan the QR code to complete our interest form or contact Cayden Davis at CADAVIS@BHPMW.INFO (508) 861-8285.



➤➤➤ JOIN US IN MARCH FOR A LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

We invite you to join us on Thursday, March 27, from 9:30–11:00 AM via Zoom for a special legislative briefing. We'll be unveiling our 2025-2026 policy slate and will be joined by MetroWest legislators to discuss key housing priorities for the region.

This is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming advocacy efforts, connect with policymakers, and engage in conversations about the future of housing in MetroWest.

To receive the Zoom invite, be sure to subscribe to our email list!

TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TOWARD A METROWEST WHERE SAFE, STABLE HOUSING IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

STAY INFORMED

➤➤➤ IMPORTANT UPDATES TO THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) FAMILY SHELTER SYSTEM

On 11/22/24 the Healey administration announced significant changes to the EA family shelter system, many of which took effect on 12/10/24.

A key component of the updates is the creation of a two-track shelter system:

- **Bridge Shelter Track:** For Priority 1-3 families, providing up to 9 months in EA shelters, with options to extend shelter stays for two 90-day periods or more in hardship cases. It is important that families ensure their information with EOHLC is updated to receive extensions.
- **Rapid Shelter Track:** For Priority 4 families, offering shelter at TRCs for up to 30 days, with limited extension options based on specific criteria. Families in this track are not eligible for Bridge Shelter Track placement.

Important Note: Families are not able to choose between tracks.

Additional updates include the planned phase-out of hotels as part of the shelter system and the addition of a priority two status for families with a member who has an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). There are several proposed changes to EA shelter eligibility criteria and length of stay, which are pending legislative approval.

We will continue to monitor these developments and provide updates. For more information, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-emergency-assistance-ea-family-shelter>

➤➤➤ RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



HOUSING TOOLKIT

Discover the MetroWest Housing Coalition's **Housing Toolkit**, a curated resource list designed to connect residents with the support they need. Hosted on www.mwcareconnection.info, this guide connects users with housing support tailored to their needs. Resources are grouped into six categories—such as rental assistance and emergency shelter—and can be further filtered by zip code to find services nearby. Whether you're looking for help for yourself or assisting others, the Housing Toolkit is here to make navigating housing resources easier. Explore it today!

STAYING CONNECTED

**VISIT THE METROWEST HOUSING
COALITION LINKTREE:**

