

Subsidized Housing in Massachusetts: The Basics

(Brief Version - Phone Numbers Only)

Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs)

We suggest you **start your search with your local HCEC**, also called Regional Housing Networks or Regional Non-Profits. They can help you understand subsidized housing options and how to apply. To find your local HCEC please call 800-224-5124.

- If you live in Boston your HCEC is Metro Housing Boston-617-859-0400

Other Helpful Resources

- **Community Action Agencies** may be able to provide an advocate. Locate your local Community Action Agency by calling 617-357-6086.
 - If you live in Boston call **Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)**- 617-348-6000.
- **Independent Living Centers (for people with disabilities)** may be able to provide an advocate. To find your local center please call 508-620-7452 (Voice/TTY).
 - If you live in Boston call **Boston Center for Independent Living**- 617-338-6665.
- **Boston Local Housing Authorities**
 - Boston Housing Authority- 617-988-4000
 - Boston- Beacon (Camden)- 617-275-7301
 - Boston- Trinity (East Boston)- 617-276-1300

Priorities and Preferences

There are long waitlists for all types of subsidized and affordable housing in the area. If you qualify, a **priority and/or a preference** (sometimes called “emergency housing”) **may move you up a waitlist more quickly**, or add your name to an otherwise closed waitlist; **they do NOT get you immediate housing. Ask about priorities/preferences at each place you apply.**

Tips

- **Unfortunately, there is no single place to apply for all subsidized housing options, but don’t be discouraged.** Stick with it. The more waitlists you get your name on, the greater your chances of finding affordable housing in a timely manner.
- **Keep track of where you apply and let them know if you move or your situation changes.** It is important to update your address to avoid missing an offer or being removed from a waitlist. If you may now be eligible for a preference, it isn’t too late to apply- ask them how.
- **Prepare for an offer.** Contact an advocate if you have a criminal record, credit problems, or have had problems with a previous landlord.
- **Non-Citizens** ask your social worker for our **Supplement: Options for Non-Citizens** handout