



Property Management Resource Guide

Western MA

Pictured:
The MassHousing-financed
Skyview Downtown in Springfield

www.masshousing.com

617.854.1000



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About

MassHousing is an independent, quasi-public agency created in 1966 and charged with providing financing for affordable homeownership and rental housing in Massachusetts. The Agency raises capital by selling bonds and lends the proceeds to low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners, and to developers who build or preserve affordable and/or mixed-income rental housing. MassHousing does not use taxpayer dollars to sustain its operations, although it administers some publicly funded programs on behalf of the Commonwealth. Since its inception, MassHousing has provided more than \$29.5 billion for affordable housing.

The Housing Stability Department (HSD) provides a variety of programs and resources aimed at promoting positive tenancies, reducing evictions, and creating opportunities for residents of affordable rental housing. HSD leads Inter-governmental collaborations to address disparities in housing access and stability for at-risk populations; offers program and grant support to help MassHousing partners foster inclusive, safe, healthy and thriving communities; and organizes learning opportunities that focus on the intersection of social issues and affordable housing.

For more information, visit masshousing.com/housingstability.

The following guide is a non-exhaustive list of resources.

Contact Kara Johnson, Senior Strategy and Program Manager in the HSD, with any questions at: kpjohnson@masshousing.com

Communities Included in Western MA:

Adams
Agawam
Amherst
Belchertown
Chicopee
Dalton
East Longmeadow
Easthampton
Greenfield
Huntington
Holyoke
Lee
Longmeadow
Montague
North Adams
Northampton
Orange
Palmer
Pittsfield
South Hadley
Southampton
Southwick
Springfield
Ware
Westfield
Wilbraham
Williamstown
Worthington

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Childcare Assistance

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Statewide/National Resources:

[Child Care Aware](#)

Child Care Aware of America is a national network of childcare resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies that connect communities with quality and affordable childcare. They provide information on selecting childcare, paying for childcare, military family fee assistance and respite care, in addition to many other family and childcare issues.

Contact: 1-800-242-2246

[Childcare.gov](#)

Childcare.gov helps families across the country by providing resources and information regarding selecting and paying for childcare, health and human services, and financial assistance. Childcare.gov offers a search engine to find childcare programs and services within the state of Massachusetts.

[Children's Trust of Massachusetts](#)

55 Court St, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

The Children's Trust of Massachusetts has created this program search site to connect families with help and services within their own communities. The Children's Trust's mission is to stop child abuse and they have partnered with various family programs to ensure that families have accessible and affordable resources.

Contact: 617-727-8957

[Community Action Agencies \(CAAs\)](#)

CAAs were created in 1964 as private, non-profit human service and advocacy organizations to fight poverty and expand access to achieve economic stability for communities. CAAs offer resources for center- and home-based childcare, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and other programs such as housing, food banks, energy assistance, and many more.

[Coordinated Family and Community Engagement](#)

The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Network is a group of local programs that provide families with child development resources and services to families with young children.

[Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care \(EEC\)](#)

100 Hancock St., 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) operates within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education. EEC aims to provide access to resources and information to all residents of Massachusetts. EEC offers childcare search for different types of childcare, financial assistance, voucher information, Head Start and Early Head Start resources, and among many forms of information.

Contact: (617) 988-6600

[Family TIES of Massachusetts](#)

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a program that provides information and training for families and children with special health needs or disability and their professional partners. They are a key source of information about Early Intervention (EI) and have an ongoing list of EI programs in the state.

Contact: (617) 236-7210

[Head Start and Early Head Start Centers](#)

Head Start and Early Head Start are federal childcare programs that offer center-, home-based, and family childcare options. Head Start is offered to three- and four-year-olds prior to them entering kindergarten, and Early Head Start accepts infants and toddlers. These programs are offered statewide and available where there are openings for eligible families. Early Head Start may not be available in all communities.

[KinderCare](#)

KinderCare offers early education programs for children from birth through kindergarten across the country. Tuition support is available, if eligible.

Mass 211

Mass 211 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. It serves as a resource for finding government benefits and services, nonprofit organizations, support groups, volunteer opportunities, donation programs, and other local resources. Always a confidential call, Mass 211 maintains the integrity of the 9-1-1 system saving that vital community resource for life and death emergencies.

Contact: 211 or Toll Free 877-211-MASS (6277)

YMCA Childcare Search

YMCA's across the country offer early learning, childcare, and out-of-school programs assisting working families. They typically offer full day and partial day programs which can be found using their location search by zip code.

Regional Resources:

18 Degrees

480 West St., Pittsfield, MA 01201

59 Interstate Dr., West Springfield, MA 01089

18 Degrees provides comprehensive family services in four different areas: early education and care; foster care and adoption; child and family well-being; and youth and community development. They offer out of school care and a family resource center that hosts events and parent support groups, while often providing transportation, snacks, and childcare.

Contact:

- Pittsfield: 413-448-8281
- Springfield: 413-584-5690
- info@18degrees.org

[Child Care of the Berkshires \(CCB\)](#)

219 State St., North Adams, MA 01247

46 Howland Ave., Adams, MA 01220

Child Care of the Berkshires (CCB) has several childcare centers and coordinates a network of family childcare providers. CCB also has family support programs for a range of topics including Healthy Families, early literacy, and child lead poisoning. They offer parent support groups, home visits, play groups, and engagement events.

Contact:

- North Adams: 413-663-6593
- Adams: 413-664-4657

[Clarendon Early Education Services](#)

1985 Main St. #305, Springfield 01103

Clarendon Early Education Services is a childcare and nutrition agency that has services for a range of ages from birth to 13 years old. They offer night and weekend care options, door-to-door transportation, and childcare referrals, and financial assistance for childcare.

Contact: 413-731-7966

[Community Action Pioneer Valley](#)

17 New South St., Suite 116, Northampton, MA 01060

393 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301

119 New Athol Rd., Suite 150, Orange, MA 01364

Community Action Pioneer Valley offers Head Start and Early Learning programs for children from birth to age 5, family support and parenting groups, and educational play groups for families in Franklin, Hampshire, and Western Hampden counties. All services are offered at no cost or low cost to eligible families, and some may only be available for residents of specific towns.

Contact:

- Northampton: 412-582-4230
- Greenfield: 413-774-2318
- Orange: 978-554-5423

Gorse Children's Center

27 Morgan St, South Hadley, MA 01075

As an extension of Mount Holyoke College, the Grose Children's Center is an on-campus childcare facility for Mount Holyoke and surrounding communities. Serving children from 6 weeks to 12 years old, their childcare programs are NAEYC Accredited. The center also serves as the lab school for Mount Holyoke's Psychology and Education Department. Grose is a VOC center.

Contact: 413-538-3351

New Horizons Childcare

39 Stephens Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01022, United States

A dual language childcare program (English and Spanish), New Horizons services aim to promote each child's own individual social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development, focusing on the individual needs of each child while providing quality, reliable and safe childcare. New Horizons accepts VOC childcare vouchers.

Contact: 413-331-0877

Playful Minds Learning Center

999 Memorial Dr, Chicopee, MA 01020 (413-593-6300)
721 State Street, Springfield, MA (413-363-1183)
200 Birnie Ave., Springfield, MA 01108 (413-747-3757)
245 Porter Lake Dr., Longmeadow, MA 01106 (413-301-8860)
281 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 (413-455-1179)

With 5 locations within the greater Springfield area, Playful Minds Learning Center offers assistance in childcare through summer and school vacations camp, before and afterschool care, and overall daycare for infants and youth as young as 4 weeks up to age 13. This organization's philosophy strives towards guiding children's love of learning while supporting them developmentally in all areas through a nurturing, structured, and creative environment. Locations offer transportation assistance, private pay, voucher and food programs.

Seven Hills Child Care Resources

116 North St., 1st Floor, Pittsfield, MA 01201
95 Elm St., West Springfield, MA 01089
21 Mohawk Trail, Unit 4, Greenfield, MA 01301

Seven Hills is a resource, referral, and information agency that serves families and Central and Western Massachusetts. The Child Care Resources (CCR) program gives referrals for early education and out of school care at no cost and makes information available in English and Spanish. Eligible families also have access to subsidized childcare vouchers.

Contact:

- Pittsfield: 508-796-0270
- West Springfield: 508-796-0281
- Greenfield: 508-796-0275

[Smith College Fort Hill: Center for Early Childhood Education](#)

Fort Hill 28 Lyman Road Northampton, Massachusetts 01063

As an extension of Smith College, Fort Hill Center for Early Childhood education is an on-campus childcare facility for Northampton and its surrounding communities. Fort Hill offers full and part-time early education and care for children from infancy through preschool during the academic year, summer/vacations, and daycare services. Additionally, the center shares a laboratory for research and fieldwork for college students and faculty; and supports the childcare needs of families.

Contact: 413-585-3290

[The Growing Tree Learning Center](#)

451 Russell Road Westfield, Ma 01085

Geared towards infants and youth starting from 4 weeks old through pre-kindergarten, The Growing Tree Learning Center places an emphasis on hands-on learning and collaborative participation. With an array of educational toys, activities, play centers, books, curriculum lessons and themes, success is found while creating an environment that children view as fresh, exciting and enjoyable! Click [here](#) to view classes and placement forms.

Contact: (413) 568-3398
info@thegrowingtree.us

[Valley Opportunity Council](#)

300 High St., Holyoke, MA 01040

The Valley Opportunity Council (VOC) is a Community Action agency that serves the Holyoke, Chicopee, and the surrounding neighborhoods. VOC offers center and family-based childcare, before and after school programs, and summer early education programs. Tuition and transportation assistance are available to eligible families, and breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided.

Contact: 413-552-1554

Domestic/Sexual Violence Support⁸

Statewide/National Resources:

[Behavioral Health Network](#)

This [link](#) provides a list of locations across Western Massachusetts.

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (BHN) is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children and families. Since its origins in the Child Guidance Clinic of 1938, BHN has grown into the largest behavioral health service provider in Western Massachusetts.

Contact: Use this [link](#) to find contact information for each location.

[Jane Doe Inc](#)

A coalition against domestic violence across the state of Massachusetts. This website offers specific resources and contact information throughout the state.

[MA Safelink](#)

Hotline for safety planning, resources, and referrals.

Contact: (877) 785-2020

[Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children](#)

125 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is a private, non-profit society dedicated to leadership in protecting and promoting the rights and well-being of children and families. This program offers pregnancy and parenting support, child and family therapy, foster care and adoption, and advocacy work. This program is specifically designed to end violence towards children and families. Use this [link](#) to find a regional office's location and contact information.

Contact: Main office (781) 861-0890

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

This is a 24 hour hotline.

Contact: (800) 799-7233 or text START to 88788

[The Network/La Red](#)

The Network/La Red is a survivor-led, social justice organization that works to end partner abuse in LGBTQ communities. We strengthen our communities through organizing, education, and the provision of support services. Support services include 24-hour hotline, housing pathway programs, support groups, and resources.

Contact: (617) 742-4911 or toll free (800) 832-1901

[The Northeast Native Network of Kinship and Healing](#)

We create safe spaces by offering crisis sheltering to provide safety during crisis and emergency situations, relocation assistance to assist program participants in relocating after fleeing/leaving an abusive situation, and transitional assistance to help support program participants become economically stable after domestic violence, and through sexual assault sheltering services.

Contact: (508) 663-3874

[Safe Horizon](#)

24 Hour hotline or chat with an advocate using this link.

Contact: 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)

[Victim Rights Law Center](#)

The Victim Rights Law Center's mission is to provide legal representation to survivors of rape and sexual assault to help rebuild their lives; and to promote a national movement committed to seeking justice for every rape and sexual assault survivor. They offer legal services, pro bono programs, and trainings.

Contact: (617) 399-6720

[Visioning B.E.A.R Circle Intertribal Coalition](#)

The mission of VBCIC is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and other interpersonal violence in the tribal, intertribal, and multicultural communities in the Northeast, as well as nationally. Visioning B.E.A.R. provides prevention education, training, and technical assistance to all indigenous and multicultural communities in the Northeast and nationally who wish to eliminate interpersonal violence in their tribal, intertribal, or other types of communities. The acronym B.E.A.R. in our name stands for "Balance, Equality, and Respect."

Contact: (413) 961-9167

[Alianza](#)

We empower survivors of domestic violence to stay safe and achieve greater independence by helping with logistics such as safe housing, food, clothing, medical support, court orders, legal help, therapy, and childcare — practical things survivors need to flourish. We also provide emotional support, empathy, and the space for survivors to tell their story.

Contact: (413) 538-9717 or Hotline: (877) 536-1628

[Center for Women & Community at UMass Amherst](#)

New Africa House, 180 Infirmary Way, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

We are committed to providing free and confidential support services to all of Hampshire County. If you are struggling, want to explore new possibilities, are learning about yourself, or have experienced violence, we welcome you to reach out to our support services. Our support services use an empowerment strength-based approach and recognize you as the expert of your experience and needs. In addition to the support services listed below, we offer training, professional development and various workshops.

Contact: (413) 545-0883

Sexual Assault Advocacy and Support Hotline (Available 24-7, 365 days/year):
(413) 545-0800

[Elizabeth Freeman Center](#)

43 Francis Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

168 Main Street, Suite 4*, Great Barrington, MA 01230

61 Main Street, Suite 202, North Adams, MA 01247

Elizabeth Freeman Center offers hope, help, and healing to all experiencing or affected by domestic and sexual violence through free, accessible, and confidential services in Berkshire County.

Contact:

- Pittsfield: (413) 499-2425
- Great Barrington: (413) 429-8190
- North Adams: (413) 663-7459
- Hotline: 1-866-401-2425

Hilltown Community Health Center

The Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Lower Level, Amherst, MA 01002

Hilltown Safety at Home provides a domestic violence victim advocate for those who have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse. The advocate works confidentially with people on the phone or in person. If it's safe for an advocate to come to your home, home visits are also available. The advocate can also help friends and family members who are trying to support a loved one in an abusive situation. All services are free.

To confidentially contact a Hilltown Safety at Home advocate, call 413-667-2203 ext.341

Resilience Center of Franklin County

479 Main St, Greenfield, MA 01301

We offer counseling, advocacy, and resources to individuals whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence or sexual abuse, and assist in prevention and education work to decrease violence in our community.

Contact: (413) 772-0806 or For an interpreter: (413) 772-0815

Safe Passage

76 Carlon Drive, Northampton, MA 01060

Safe Passage counselors can help you get connected to the statewide system of emergency shelters and additional housing resources. Community services include counseling, advocacy, support groups, and legal advice and counsel on Probate and Family Court matters., offered at our office in Northampton and in locations throughout Hampshire County.

Contact:

- (413) 586-1125
- Hotline: (413) 586-5066
- Toll-Free Hotline: (888) 345-5282

Salasin Project

474 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

The Salasin Project seeks to create a safe community where every member can achieve a full and satisfying life free of violence and its consequences. Their values include seeking compassion, acceptance, respect, equality, and safety.

Contact: (413) 774-4307

YWCA of Western Massachusetts

1 Clough Street, Springfield, MA 01118

The Community-Based Domestic Violence Services (CBDV) program provides wraparound services to victims of domestic violence, ages eighteen and over. These services include short-term individual counseling, safety planning, system advocacy, service coordination, relocation assistance, provision of material items, and other services as needed by clients. This program also regularly facilitates groups that educate DCF-referred clients on domestic violence. Referrals can be made by calling the YW's hotline.

Contact:

- (413) 732-3121
- Hotline: (413) 733-7100
- Espanol: (800) 223-5001

Behavioral Health Network

This [link](#) provides a list of locations across Western Massachusetts.

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (BHN) is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children and families. Since its origins in the Child Guidance Clinic of 1938, BHN has grown into the largest behavioral health service provider in Western Massachusetts.

Contact: Use this [link](#) to find contact information for each location.

Statewide/National Resources:

[Meals on Wheels](#)

Meals on Wheels provides nutritionally balanced meals to elders, their dependents, and adults with disabilities in the Commonwealth through home delivery or at dining sights. Meals on Wheels programs in the Commonwealth also provide many different medically tailored and culturally appropriate meals. Use the [agency directory](#) to find your local Meals on Wheels provider.

Contact: 978-624-2225

[Project Bread's Food Source Hotline](#)

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline is the food assistance line for all of Massachusetts. Whether you need help paying for food and don't know where to start or you're curious about ways to boost your food budget or save on groceries, you can chat.

Contact: call or text 1-800-645-8333

[Salvation Army](#)

Follow link and enter zip code for nearest location

The Salvation Army offers information about food pantries, meal programs, community gardens, and more. Salvation Army programs and services vary with local needs. For information on specific programs and locations, contact your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center by using the [location search](#).

SNAP Program Benefits

SNAP is a federal nutrition program administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) for Massachusetts residents. Check your eligibility using the confidential [screener](#) or see the chart on the website. If eligible, apply, and DTA will mail you an [Electronic Benefit Transfer \(EBT\) card](#). You can use the funds on your EBT card to shop for food. It looks and works like a debit card.

Contact: DTA Assistance Line: 1-877-382-2363 (press 7 to apply for SNAP)

Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program

WIC is a nutrition program that provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare and other services, free of charge, to Massachusetts families who qualify. Use this [link](#) to check your eligibility.

Contact:

- 1-800-942-1007
- wicinfo.dph@massmail.state.ma.us
- Check local contact information by using this [link](#) and entering your location information

About Fresh

About Fresh is a Boston-based nonprofit that improves healthy food access through Fresh Connect and Fresh Truck. [Fresh Connect](#) provides prepaid debit cards funded by healthcare providers for patients to buy fresh, culturally relevant food. [Fresh Truck](#) brings affordable produce directly to underserved neighborhoods using mobile markets, helping bridge the gap between healthcare and food security.

Contact: media@aboutfresh.org

Regional Resources:

Amherst Survival Center

138 Sunderland Rd, North Amherst, MA 01059

Amherst Survival Center provides free groceries to any residents of Amherst, Belchertown, Deerfield, Granby, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, South Deerfield, South Hadley, Sunderland, Ware and Whately, and to those who are experiencing homelessness. Groceries are available through in person shopping, curbside pickup, express pick up, or delivery. Fill out the online [food pantry registration form](#) or register in person onsite during open hours.

Contact: 413-549-3968 or pantry@amherstsurvival.org

[Center for Human Development - Not Bread Alone](#)

165 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002

Not Bread Alone prepares family-style meals for those in need. It is a place to relax, refuel, and connect with others in the community. Homemade meals are served on the lower level of the First Congregational Church of Amherst UCC every: Saturday & Sunday at noon, Wednesday at 4:00 pm, and Thanksgiving & Christmas.

Contact: 413-256-0128

[Food Bank of Western MA](#)

97 North Hatfield Rd, Hatfield, MA

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts distributes a variety of food to our member agencies throughout western Massachusetts, which consist of food pantries, meal sites, shelters, childcare centers, and other food assistance programs. Enter your zip code, city and state, or full street address [here](#) to find food near you.

Contact: 413-247-9738 or 800-247-9632

[United Way Pioneer Valley](#)

Springfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee

UWPV's Springfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee Cupboards are open weekly and provide food, toiletries, and other essential items to help the community. Beyond food security, they offer resource coordination through staff trained in mobility mentoring. All Services are free and available to all during our hours of operation. No documentation is required.

Find locations and hours [here](#).

Statewide Resources:

[Community Action Agencies](#)

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were created in 1964 as private, non-profit human service and advocacy organizations to fight poverty and expand access to achieve economic stability for communities. CAAs are often providers of LIHEAP and offer a variety of other services and programs such as housing, food banks, child care, and many more. [Here](#) is a list of CAAs in Massachusetts with their contact information.

[JOE-4-SUN](#)

JOE-4-SUN MA is available to low-income Massachusetts residents who receive an Eversource or National Grid electric bill. JOE-4-SUN is not a utility company or energy supplier. You will continue to receive an electric bill from your utility as usual. JOE-4-SUN is a low-income community solar program that works with your utility to reduce your total balance due by applying credits to your electric bill.

Contact: 855-JOE-4-SUN or Joe4Sun@citizensenergy.com

[Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

The Massachusetts home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) is a 100% no-cost resource that helps eligible households pay a portion of their heating bills. There is a large network of local service providers which can be located through this [portal](#). Eligibility is based on factors including but not limited to household size and combined gross annual income of household members. Homeowners and renters may apply, in person or through the online application.

Contact:

- Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities: 617-573-1100
- TTY: 617-573-1140

Mass 211

Mass 211 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. It serves as a resource for finding government benefits and services, nonprofit organizations, support groups, volunteer opportunities, donation programs, and other local resources. Always a confidential call, Mass 211 maintains the integrity of the 9-1-1 system saving that vital community resource for life and death emergencies.

Contact: 211 or 877-211-MASS (6277)

Mass Save

Mass Save is a collaborative of various electric and gas companies in Massachusetts, serving customers of Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty, National Grid, and Unitil. Mass Save offers a variety of services, rebates, incentives, trainings, and information for residents, businesses, renters, and communities. [Here](#) you can enter your zip code and topic to find the most relevant contact.

Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance. Income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. There are Corps and Community Centers in Athol, Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chelsea/East Boston, Fall River, Fitchburg/Montachusett, Framingham, Greenfield, Haverhill, Holyoke, Hyannis, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Milford, New Bedford, Newburyport, North Adams, North Shore, Pittsfield, Quincy, Springfield, Waltham, and Worcester.

Contact:

- Area codes: 508, 617, 781, and 978, call: 800-334-3047
- Area code 413, call: 800-262-1320

[Berkshire Community Action Agency](#)

85 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247

1531 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Fuel Assistance, also known as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is a free resource offered by Berkshire Community Action Council in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development. All heating types may be eligible for assistance: oil, propane, electric, kerosene, coal, cord wood, wood pellets, and natural gas included. You may be eligible even if your utilities are included in your rent. The program begins November 1st and ends April 30th each year.

Contact:

- North Adams: 413-663-3014
- Pittsfield: 413-445-4503

[Community Action Pioneer Valley](#)

17 New South Street, Suite 116, Northampton

393 Main St, Greenfield

119 New Athol Rd, Suite 150, Orange

The Massachusetts' home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) is a free resource, offered by Community Action Pioneer Valley in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development, to help eligible households pay a portion of winter heating bills. Community Action Pioneer Valley offers LIHEAP for residents in Franklin and Hampshire counties. Available to homeowners and renters, all Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

Contact:

- Northampton: 413-582-4230
- Greenfield: 413-774-2318
- Orange: 978-544-5423

Mary Lyon Foundation

The Guardian Angel Fund provides emergency support for children and their families who find themselves in unexpected and difficult circumstances. We provide stop-gap assistance such as internet access, computers, fuel, etc.

Contact: 413-625-2555 or office@marylyonfoundation.org

Valley Opportunity Council

300 High St, 2nd Floor, Holyoke, MA 01040

Valley Opportunity Council's (VOC) Fuel Assistance Program (also known as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) helps eligible households challenged by the high cost of home heating fuel pay a portion of their winter heating bills. This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal. VOC also offers 30 other programs in a variety of social issues, including food and nutrition, energy assistance, education and child care, youth and adult programs and community outreach.

Contact: 413-552-1548

Mental Health Assistance

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Statewide/National Resources:

[Massachusetts Department of Mental Health](#)

The Department of Mental Health, as the State Mental Health Authority, assures and provides access to services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages, enabling them to live, work and participate in their communities.

Contact: 1-833-773-2445

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.

[Behavioral Health Help Line](#)

The Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent, and immediate crisis care. Call for real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right evaluation and treatment.

Contact: 1-833-773-2445

[SAMSHA National Helpline](#)

SAMHSA's National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.

Contact: 1-800-622-HELP (4357)

[The Trevor Project](#)

The Trevor Project's mission is to end suicide among LGBTQ young people by providing counseling services if struggling with mental health.

Contact: 866-488-7386

Regional Resources:

[Center for Human Development \(CHD\) - Emotional & Behavioral Health](#) **[332 Birnie Avenue Springfield, MA 01107](#)**

Their mission and value are being able to help treat those in Massachusetts that are dealing with behavioral or crisis health issues. They offer providers a variety of options to effectively treat adults and children in the community. Mobile crisis services meet people where they are that is not clinical; provides services up to seven days of high-level care in a comfortable, home-like environment; and outpatient clinic provides urgent care also even same-day access to psychiatry, therapists, case management, and wide-ranging care for substance-misuse disorders. This link will take you to a list of other site locations and contact information across Western Massachusetts.

Contact: (413) 733-6624

[Wildflower Alliance](#)

The Wildflower Alliance supports healing and empowerment for our broader communities and people who have been impacted by psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, extreme states, homelessness, problems with substances and other life-interrupting challenges. They do this through peer-to-peer support & genuine human relationships, alternative healing practices, learning opportunities and advocacy.

Contact: (413) 539-5941 or info@wildfloweralliance.org

Statewide Resources:

[Continuum of Care Programs \(CoC\)](#)

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. Across the Commonwealth there are 12 CoCs eligible to apply for money from HUD to help homeless people. Each of the 12 CoCs serves a unique geographic area. The EOHLC serves the communities not covered by the other CoC's as the Balance of State CoC.

[HomeBASE](#)

HomeBASE is the Commonwealth's re-housing benefit created to provide families who are in the emergency shelter assistance system an opportunity to overcome some of the financial barriers to ending their homelessness. Families deemed eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA) Shelter by an Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) Homeless Coordinator can access HomeBASE.

If you are in a housing crisis and need help and/or want to know more about the HomeBASE Program, contact: 1-866-584-0653

[Housing Consumer Education Centers of Massachusetts](#)

Housing Consumer Education Centers offer answers to a wide range of questions about all types of housing problems. Tenants, Landlords, Prospective Buyers, and Homeowners can access information designed to maximize housing stability, strengthen investments, and minimize disputes.

[Mass 211](#)

Mass 211 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. It serves as a resource for finding government benefits and services, nonprofit organizations, support groups, volunteer opportunities, donation programs, and other local resources. Available 24/7. Dial 211.

[Regional Administering Agencies](#)

Regional Administering Agencies (RAAs) manage subsidized housing assistance, or Rental Assistance, throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The link will bring you to the Regional Administering Agencies Contact Listing.

Use this [link](#) to select your city/town from the drop-down menu to get contact information for a regional admin agency and review income-limits for the housing payment assistance programs.

[Residential Assistance for Families in Transition \(RAFT\) program](#)

RAFT is administered by eleven Regional Administering Agencies (RAAs) as well as the Rental Assistance Processing (RAP) Center operated by Nan McKay and Associates (NMA).

The RAFT Program is a homelessness prevention program funded by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). RAFT provides short-term financial assistance to low-income families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The RAFT program helps keep households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies. RAFT can provide up to \$7,000 per household (directly to the landlord, utility provider, mortgage servicer, or other vendor) within a 12-month period to help preserve current housing or move to new housing.

[Tenancy Preservation Program](#)

The Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) is a homelessness prevention program. TPP works with tenants, including families with children with disabilities, facing eviction as a result of behavior related to a disability (e.g. mental illness, intellectual disability, substance abuse, aging related impairments). TPP functions as a neutral party to the landlord and tenant. In consultation with the Housing Court Department, TPP works with the property owner and tenant to determine whether the disability can be reasonably accommodated, and the tenancy preserved. The TPP does not provide any financial assistance.

Regional Resources:

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Continuum of Care Programs:

[Springfield-Hampden County Continuum of Care](#)

The Springfield-Hampden County Continuum of Care (CoC) is a network of municipalities, organizations, community residents, and businesses that coordinate initiatives with the primary goal of ending homelessness in our community.

[Three County CoC | Massachusetts](#) (Franklin, Hampshire, Berkshire)

393 Main Street Greenfield, MA 01301

The Three County Continuum of Care (CoC) MA-507 promotes and guides a community-wide vision, strategy, and commitment to efforts to prevent and end homelessness

Contact: 413-376-1184

Regional Administering Agencies:

[Berkshire County: Upside413](#)

1 Fenn Street Pittsfield, MA 01201

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority is committed to providing innovative programming to improve the lives of Berkshire County residents through: housing & consumer education programming, dispute resolution services, comprehensive legal and educational counseling services, pre & post foreclosure counseling, homelessness prevention/tenancy preservation services, homelessness resolution and housing search assistance, and anti-poverty resources.

Contact: 413-443-7138 or 1-800-248-9002

[Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority](#)

241 Millers Falls Road Turners Falls, MA 01376

Serves the housing and community development needs of the twenty-six towns of Franklin County in northwestern Massachusetts. Works with residents to successfully access a wide variety of housing resources.

Contact: (413) 863-9781

Way Finders

1780 Main Street Springfield, MA 01103

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Way Finders works to strengthen housing stability and economic mobility, and to build thriving neighborhoods in communities throughout Western Massachusetts, including Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Contact: 413-233-1500

Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness

The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness (WMNEH) creates collaborative solutions across Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties to prevent and end homelessness through a Housing First approach that centers racial equity. The help page includes resources for Youth/Young Adults, Housing/Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, and Shelters.

Use this [link](#) to access a list of emergency shelters and services in Western Mass.

413cares.org

Housing resources in Western, MA

More rental assistance resources:

A Guide to Obtaining Housing Assistance

This reference guide, provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is for Massachusetts residents seeking information on housing for low and moderate income families and individuals

Housing Assistance Application Reference Guide

This guide will take you through applying for housing assistance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, using the “[Massachusetts Emergency Housing Payment Assistance Portal](#).” The application described in this guide is for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program (RAFT).

Housing Navigator (housingnavigator.ma.gov) *

This is a database that consists of income-restricted rentals from all over the state.

If you are facing eviction, this [link](#) will guide you towards plenty of resources that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has available to help. Legal help and mediation are also available to help low-income tenants and small landlords to avoid an eviction. This [link](#) is a more comprehensive breakdown of the resources available when facing eviction.

Training Resources for State Rental Assistance Program Providers

Program partners for state rental assistance programs can access video trainings, guidance, and other presentations offered by EOHLC.



Rental Vouchers:

Rental assistance programs that provide financial rental assistance to low-income persons renting apartments on the private market.

AHVP (The Alternative Housing Voucher Program)

A state funded rental voucher program. The AHVP program is designed to help people with disabilities live independently in housing they choose through mobile (tenant-based) rental vouchers. [Check your eligibility and apply here.](#)

Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program (DMHRSP)

Provides rental assistance to units occupied by low-income persons who receive supportive residential services through the state's Department of Mental Health (DMH) Eligible participants must be determined in need of supportive residential services by DMH, and a closed referral process is used. Assistance targets individuals with incomes of 80%AMI or less. DMH refers eligible clients to service providers across the state. Information on how to apply for DMH services or eligibility can be found [here](#).

Mobile HCVP/Section 8 (The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program)

The federal Section 8 program. Apply at the Regional Administering Agency that serves the town you live in. That agency can be located here: [Service Providers](#). You can also apply at [Mass NAHRO](#).

Mobile MRVP (The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program)

A state funded rental voucher program. Apply at the local housing authority in the town you live in. You can locate your Local Housing Authority here [Service Providers](#).

Project based HCVP/Section 8 or project based MRVP

These vouchers are tied to specific private housing developments and cannot change location. You need to apply separately to each development.

VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)

This is a federal voucher program for eligible Veterans. Apply at your local Veteran's Administration Hospital. You can find more information by calling 1-877-4AID-VET or their [website](#).

Substance Use Disorder Support

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Statewide/National Resources:

[Bureau of Substance Addiction Services](#)

Statewide system of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support. Different types of addictions, including alcohol and gambling

Contact: (617) 624-5111

[Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline](#)

The Helpline is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment, recovery, and problem gambling services. Helpline services are free and confidential. Our caring, trained Specialists will help you understand the treatment system and your options.

Contact: 1 (800) 327-5050

[National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

This is a source where health professionals can go to learn more about Substance Use Disorder treatment. This can be helpful for families who are dealing with a loved one that has substance use disorder as well.

[Nicotine Replacement Therapy Program](#)

Stopping smoking, vaping, or using other tobacco or nicotine products takes time and courage.

Contact: Text “Start my Quit” to 36072 or 1-800-Quit-Now

[MA Access to Recovery](#)

Access to Recovery is program for individuals who are in early recovery from a substance use disorder. Program participants receive support developing a recovery plan, connecting with supportive services, and accessing job readiness programs. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Eligibility:

- In early recovery (3 months-2 years) from substance use disorder
- Engaged in services with and referred by an [approved referral partner](#)
- Live in Boston, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield, Holyoke, or Worcester
- 18 years or older

[The Institute for Health and Recovery \(IHR\)](#)

75 N. Beacon St., Fl. 2, Watertown, MA 02472

IHR is a non-profit organization, which offers statewide support through consultation, training, and technical assistance to individuals and organizations affected by substance abuse. Find out more [here](#).

Contact: 617-661-3991 or Ihr@healthrecovery.org

[Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing \(MASH\)](#)

MASH is the primary agency accountable for all certified alcohol and drug-free (ADF) housing in Massachusetts. MASH offers a [rental assistance program](#) and trainings, promoting health, safety, and community in sober homes. Find available sober housing through their directory [here](#).

Contact: 781-472-2624 or Office@mashsoberhousing.org

[South Middlesex Opportunity Council \(SMOC\)](#)

SMOC is a regional Community Action agency that offers several services around the state. Behavioral Healthcare provides outpatient and care coordination services, residential substance uses recovery programs, and peer recovery support. Find out more about SMOC Behavioral Healthcare [here](#).

Main contact: 508-879-2250

Recovery Support Center: 508-424-2520 or anchoredinrecovery@smoc.org

SMOC also operates three emergency shelter programs and over 300 units of housing, including permanent, sober, and peer-support focused housing. The Common Ground Resource Center provides a single-entry point into SMOC's housing programs.

Contact the Common Ground Resource Center: (508) 620-2690

[MASSCAP](#)

MASSCAP offers training and access to benefits to promote economic mobility and end poverty in Massachusetts. Programs offered by MASSCAP include trauma informed early education and care, rent and mortgage programs, tax preparation, and health resources. Find out more about MASSCAP [here](#).

Contact: 617-357-6086

Power Forward

The Power Forward Sober Living Scholarship provides the first three to six weeks of sober housing for those in recovery. This program provides recipients with safe, sober housing security during the essential days and weeks immediately following treatment. Scholarships apply only to vetted MASH Certified Sober Homes that we have pre-existing relationships. Please see [attached list](#) for our partners.

Herren Project

The Herren Project's Recovery Scholarship provides funding to support seven weeks of rent at a vetted sober house. Approved candidates are given a chance to get back on their feet and transition into their new sober life in a safe and successful way without the immediate financial burden of paying rent right after treatment. Candidates must be in an addiction treatment program and be referred by a case manager or counselor, or be a current Herren Project client. Check eligibility and apply [here](#).

Contact: recovery@herrenproject.org

Project NORTH

Project NORTH is a Trial Court initiative that partners with treatment providers to support individuals with treatment, recovery, and prevention, enrolling in MassHealth, developing recovery goals, accessing sober housing, and more. Referrals may come from Trial Court staff, Probation, Defense Counsel, the District Attorney's office, behavioral health treatment providers, or community partners. Individuals may also self-refer. Walk-in appointments are accepted at [all Project NORTH courthouses](#).

[AdCare Hospital](#)

107 Lincoln St, Worcester, MA 01605

AdCare Drug and Alcohol Detox Center in Worcester, MA is staffed by the region's most highly qualified physicians, nurses, counselors, and case managers. Daily activities in our program include educational sessions, individual and group counseling, mutual help groups (e.g., NA/AA), and relapse prevention skills training.

Contact: 325-671-6326

[Behavioral Health Network](#)

This [link](#) provides a list of locations across Western Massachusetts.

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (BHN) is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children and families. Since its origins in the Child Guidance Clinic of 1938, BHN has grown into the largest behavioral health service provider in Western Massachusetts.

Contact: Use this [link](#) to find contact information for each location.

[Berkshire Health & Employee Assistance Program](#)

725 North Street, Pittsfield, MA

29 Lewis Avenue, Great Barrington MA

Berkshire Medical Center, a non-profit acute care community teaching hospital established the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide confidential outreach and support to Berkshire County employees and their family members experiencing a variety of behavioral health problems.

Contact:

- Pittsfield: (413) 447-2000
- Great Barrington: (413) 528-0790

Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

359 Fenn Street Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Brien Center provides people with a successful transition from a detox center or hospital-based detox, a 24-hour Residential program (Sober Supportive Housing programs), Intensive Outpatient Services (Day Treatment/SOAP), and outpatient services for individuals, groups, and families Full reintegration into one's community.

Contact: (413) 499-0412

Carlson Recovery Center

471 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 11070

Medically monitored treatment for adults, including medical evaluation, withdrawal management, and the option of beginning Medication-Assisted Treatment. Services are provided by a 24-hour multidisciplinary team which includes nursing, counseling, and board-certified physicians.

Contact: (413) 309-9355 ex: 2

Community Substance Abuse Center

For all locations please use this [link](#).

Health Care Resource Centers (HCRC), a [BayMark Health Services](#) company, has been providing outpatient medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder for more than 32 years. Our primary focus is on methadone treatment supported by substance use counseling and other recovery services to accommodate underserved populations affected by the worsening opioid crisis.

Contact: This [link](#) provides addresses and phone numbers for individual locations

MiraVista Substance Abuse Recovery Care

1233 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

MiraVista's recovery services are designed to help individuals initiate and receive treatment at any stage of their recovery. Our caregivers are addiction experts with specialized training in both the medical and therapeutic fields of substance use recovery and treatment.

Contact: (413) 701-2600

[Opioid Addiction Treatment Program](#)

151 South Street, Cummington, MA 01026

At Swift River, we are a leading behavioral healthcare provider for mental health and substance use disorders. We are proud to provide a complete continuum of care based on our patients' various needs at different points in their recovery and wellness journey.

Contact: [\(413\) 570-9698](#)

[ServiceNet Recovery Houses and Supportive Housing](#)

21 Olander Drive, Northampton, MA 01060

Recovery houses serve as transitional residences for men and women 18 years of age and older, who are in the early stages of recovery from addiction. Our supportive environment is staffed by skilled case managers and support staff 24 hours-a-day. The Moltenbrey Apartments in Turners Falls offer sober housing for individuals who are making the transition from a recovery house or other treatment program to community living.

Contact: Administration (413.585.1300) or Outpatient Clinics (413.584.6855)

[Gándara](#)

Gándara Center delivers quality bilingual behavioral health care, substance use and preventative services across Massachusetts. Gándara offers free recovery coaches and peer recovery support centers throughout Western Massachusetts. Gándara also focuses on sober housing, offering a variety of affordable and supportive sober living housing options and long-term residential recovery and treatment programs for individuals with co-occurring mental health disorders. Learn more and get connected [here](#).

[Mental Health Association \(MHA\)](#)

350 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

MHA provides residential and support services that promote independence, community engagement, wellness and recovery for people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals. MHA has [transitional and permanent housing options](#) and [sober homes](#) for people in recovery. MHA also offers a broad range of recovery programs and services, such as case management, peer recovery coaching, impaired driving programs, and more. Get in touch [here](#).

Statewide/National Resources:

[Department of Youth Services \(DYS\)](#)

600 Washington street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02111

DYS serves individuals of the ages 12-21 who have been adjudicated delinquent, a youthful offender, or places in DYS' overnight arrest beds and/or detention programs while awaiting court date. DYS offered education programs with individualized attention, coaching and cognitive behavioral strategies. They strongly encourage families to engage in their programs to further help.

Contact: (617) 727-7575

[Wayside Youth & Family Support Network](#)

1 Frederick Abbott Way, Framingham, MA 01701

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network provides a variety of mental health counseling and family support services across Massachusetts. To find their services near you contact them at (508) 879-9800 or go to their [overview page](#) on their website.

Regional Resources:

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western MA](#)

West Springfield, Greenfield

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western Massachusetts is a non-profit organization that provides one-to-one mentoring relationships for children and teens. Studies continue to show that mentoring can help kids avoid risky behaviors, do better in school, and get set up on a path to success into adulthood. BBBSWM serves all counties in Western MA.

West Springfield: 413-781-4730

Greenfield: 413-772- 0915

[Springfield YMCA](#)

Tower Square, 1500 Main Street, Suite 256, Springfield, MA 01115

The Springfield YMCA offers teen camps, fitness programs, swimming, afterschool programs. The Y-AIM program is a social intervention program designed to provide positive adult mentors, strong peer relationships, and academic support, in and out of school, to middle and high school students in Springfield. This program is offered at no cost to teens and their families.

Contact: 413-739-6951

[Chicopee Boys and Girls Club](#)

580 Meadow Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Senecal Teen Center at the Boys and Girls Club offers a variety of programs for teens, including an after-school program and Teen Nights. Additionally, there is a games room, homework help, and healthy lifestyles programs.

Contact: 413-592-6707

[Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holyoke](#)

70 Nick Cosmos Way, Holyoke MA 01040

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke invites youth between the ages of 13 and 18 to their Teen Membership Program. Program activities include, recreation, arts and crafts, education, swimming, sports, a technology room, career development, and leadership clubs

Contact: 413-534-7366

[Northampton Parks and Rec](#)

210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

The City of Northampton offers teen camp programs. Camp Hamp is a fast paced, diverse program is based in Northampton's Look Park where participants are introduced to a combination of athletic, adventure, artistic and cooperative outdoor activities. The Teen Expeditions Program hosts a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities designed to spark appreciation for the outdoors and natural curiosity.

Contact: 413-587-4900

[YMCA of Franklin County](#)

451 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

The Leaders Club gives preteens (10-12) and teens (13-18) the opportunity to make a difference in Franklin County by working together to plan and implement service activities. Participants have the opportunity to work closely with peers and YMCA staff to develop leadership, job and life teaching skills. The YMCA also offers summer camps, gymnastics, and other recreation opportunities.

Contact: 413-773-3646

Statewide/National Resources:

[Citizen for New Americans Program - Office for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

1 Ashburton Place 5th floor Boston, MA 02108

The Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP) assists legal permanent Massachusetts residents in gaining citizenship. Residents must be within 3 years of eligibility to become citizens of the United States. Services provided include: ESOL/civics classes, citizenship application assistance, interview preparation and supportive services including interpretation and referral services. Find a list of service providers [here](#).

[Financial Literacy for Newcomers \(FLN\)](#)

FLN offers workshop classes, free of cost to the participants, about the American financial system. As well as teaching how to immigrants can protect their money and build assets. It is offered in 15 languages including but not limited to: Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Russian, Ukrainian, and Swahili. After graduation from the program you are awarded a stipend. You can find more information [here](#).

[International Institute of New England \(IINE\)](#)

2 Boylston Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116

101 Jackson Street, Suite 2, Lowell, MA 01852

The International Institute of New England (IINE) helps refugees and immigrants with a wide range of services including: relocation services, employment advancement, education, pathways to citizenship, legal services, and language and translation services. Click [here](#) for more information.

Boston: 617.695.9990

Lowell: 978.459.9031

[Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition \(MIRA\)](#)

69 Canal St 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02114

MIRA promotes the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees in New England. They offer an immigrant helpline for general information about immigration pathways/processes, resources for immigrants, Know-Your-Rights information, and personal immigration court cases or a pending immigration application. Click to find their [online factsheets](#) and [legal service](#) directory.

Call the helpline at (508) 293-1871

[Office for Refugees and Immigrants \(ORI\)](#)

1 Ashburton Place 5th floor Boston, MA 02108

In addition to the resources already listed, ORI runs many other programs and services. This includes medical, employment, schooling, cash assistance, and more. Find the full list of programs and qualifications [here](#).

Office for Refugees and Immigrants: 617-727-7888

[Citizen for New Americans Program - Office for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

The Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP) assists legal permanent Massachusetts residents in gaining citizenship. Residents must be within 3 years of eligibility to become citizens of the United States. Services provided include: ESOL/civics classes, citizenship application assistance, interview preparation and supportive services including interpretation and referral services. Find a list of service providers [here](#).

PAIR Project

98 North Washington Street, Suite 106 Boston MA 02114

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) helps asylum seekers and detained immigrants navigate the legal system. PAIR provides free asylum intake services and free legal services for detainees with bond and removal defense. PAIR's Detention Program is the only immigration legal services program with negotiated access to all major ICE detention centers in Massachusetts and Wyatt, Rhode Island to conduct legal orientation.

Phone: 617-742-9296

Rian Immigration Center

One State Street, Boston, MA 02109

Rian empowers immigrants, refugees and international exchange visitors on the path to opportunity, safety, and a better future. They offer legal assistance for immigration cases at an extremely low cost or for free. Rian also provides education, career-building, and international exchange visitor visa services.

Free legal consultation: 617-542-7654 ext. 176

Immigration Legal Resource Center:

Click here to download printable Red Cards. Red Cards also known as "Know Your Rights" cards provide legal information about the fundamental rights for individuals regardless of their immigration status, when interacting with law enforcement and immigration authorities. Downloads are available in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Pashto, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tigrinya, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

Phone: (415) 255-9499

AODAdmin@ilrc.org

Regional Resources:

[Center for New Americans](#)

42 Gothic Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Center for New Americans welcomes and serves immigrants, refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers in Western Massachusetts. They offer free English classes for speakers of other Languages, career preparation assistance, support services and immigration legal services. Programming sites are in Northampton, Amherst, Greenfield, and Springfield. For site specific contact and address information, click [here](#).

[Ascentria Care Alliance](#)

425 Union Street, West Springfield, MA 01089

Ascentria's Services for New Americans program assists refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants in Western Massachusetts. Services include workforce development, interpretation services, legal assistance, and education services for all ages. Additionally, Ascentria offers foster care to unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children.

Contact: 774.243.3060

[Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts](#)

15 Lenox Street, Springfield, MA 01108

Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts works with individuals and families of all races and religions. The New American Program provides a variety of case management support for humanitarian migrants and families (refugees; asylees; parolees; and other entrants) within 5 years of arrival to the United States. This includes employment assistance, connections with the school system, enrollment in benefits programs, financial assistance, and group-based orientation and instruction

Contact: 413-737-2601

[Berkshire Immigrant Center](#)

141 North Street, Suite 303, Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Berkshire Immigrant Center services include assistance with information and filing for immigrant benefits forms, citizenship process assistance, translation services, educational workshops, and distribution of emergency funds. They also provide referrals for services such as legal aid, daycare, health care, continuing education, career counseling, and housing.

Contact: 413-445-4881 or email here info@berkshireic.org

[Berkshire Alliance to Support the Immigrant Community \(BASIC\)](#)

Online Resource Directory

BASIC an alliance of Berkshire-based organizations which provide a variety of support for immigrants and their families. Their online directory connects immigrants to resources in health & safety, housing, clothing, food assistance, legal aid, employment, childcare, financial aid, English classes, transportation, banking, higher education, translation, and community. Search for resources by category [here](#).

[Central West Justice Center](#)

Northampton, Pittsfield, Springfield

Central West Justice Center provides free civil legal services to low-income and immigrant residents in Western Massachusetts. This includes free consultations on immigration law and free representation before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Immigration Court to individuals applying for humanitarian immigration relief. Find office locations [here](#).

Contact: 800-649-3718

[Valley Opportunity Council](#)

35 Mt. Carmel Ave, 3rd Floor, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013

VOC offers a ten-week citizenship class that meets one evening per week. During these classes, students will practice answering the oral questions of the N-400 application form to gain confidence in their interview skills. They also hold English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, designed to help students understand, speak, read and write in English. There are four class levels. Classes meet either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

Contact: 413-612-0206

Statewide/National Resources:

[GED and HiSET Test General Information](#)

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The GED and HiSET tests allow individuals to earn an equivalent to a high school diploma. [Learn more](#) about the difference between the GED and HiSET, where to sign up to take the test, and free test preparation materials. There is **no cost** to taking the GED and HiSET tests for all MA residents.

[MassLINKS](#)

MassLINKS provides free virtual education classes to Massachusetts residents to support high school equivalency testing, English language instruction, workplace readiness, and college preparation. Classes have flexible scheduling and students are eligible to receive technology support, such as a Chromebook, headphones, calculator, etc.

Contact: 978-355-1541 or masslinks@mwcc.mass.edu

[MassHire](#)

MassHire is the state's leading workforce development network that connects employers and job seekers. MassHire provides job placement, training, and career development services at no charge. Find a MassHire career center location in your area [here](#). Learn more about upcoming job fairs and hiring event [here](#).

Contact: (617) 626-5300

[MassAbility](#)

MassAbility supports those with disabilities to gain autonomy and independence. MassAbility's Career Services center provides guidance, training, and job placement assistance for individuals who meet MassAbility's physical or mental disability eligibility requirement. Apply for services at [MassAbility Connect](#), or find contact information for regional locations [here](#).

Contact: (978) 458-4544

[Department of Unemployment Assistance](#)

The MA Department of Unemployment Assistance has resources that support Massachusetts residents during challenging times. Learn more about unemployment benefits and eligibility. Apply for unemployment assistance [here](#).

Contact: (877) 626-6800

[MassTown Careers](#)

MassTown Careers lists job opportunities available in towns and cities across Massachusetts. Jobs are updated regularly and careers range from health, information technology, human services, public work, public safety, finance, and town manager/administrator. Search by title and/or city or town.

[Mass.gov Careers](#)

Mass.gov Careers lists all job opportunities with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and allows job seekers to filter their search to find a career that fits them.

[Vet Jobs America](#)

Vet Jobs America helps veterans in their transition to civilian life by providing comprehensive career services in their journey to finding employment, including interview support, career counseling, and apprenticeship and job placement.

Contact: 800-947-7925 or info@vetjobsamerica.org

[Southeastern Economic Development Corporation](#)

80 Dean Street, Taunton, MA 02780

The Southeastern Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit organization that helps start, grow, and scale small local businesses in Massachusetts and Rhode Island through loan programs. These programs include Fast Track Loans, Small Loans, and SBA 504 Loans. SEED also offers technical assistance through workshops and financial consultations.

Contact: 508-822-1020

[Law About Wages](#)

Mass.gov Law about Wages is a resource for those who are interested or in need of information about employment and wage laws.

Regional Resources:

[The Literacy Project](#)

The Literacy Project is a Western Massachusetts nonprofit offering free adult education classes, including HiSET, GED, college readiness, and basic literacy classes. Classes are online or in-person at a Literacy Project location in Amherst, Greenfield, Easthampton, Northampton, Orange, and Ware.

Contact: 413-774-3934 or info@literacyproject.org

[Pittsfield Adult Learning Center](#)

141 North Street, Suite 4, Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Pittsfield Adult Learning Center operates within the Pittsfield Public School departments and offers HiSET and GED classes, digital literacy support, and educational and career advising.

Contact: (413) 499-9530 or bmanarchik@pittsfield.net

[Holyoke Community College Adult and Family Education Center](#)

206 Maple Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

HCC and partner organizations offer free GED and HiSET test preparation classes and adult basic education at flexible times and in both English and Spanish. Sign up for classes offered in English [here](#) and call (413) 296-1113 for Spanish classes.

Contact: 413.552.2927 or pafec@hcc.edu

Community Colleges

Community colleges offer a broad catalog of structured job training programs to support skill acquisition, career pivots, and job readiness. Take courses and gain experience and credentials in fields such as healthcare, HVAC, commercial driver's license, interpreting, IT, real estate, plumbing, and more. In addition to coursework, community colleges provide internship opportunities as well as full and part-time employment opportunities.

Community college is free for Massachusetts residents of any age and income level who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. Some students may also be eligible for an additional allowance to help with other costs of attending college.

[Holyoke Community College](#)

Reach out at 413-552-2500 and leave your name and contact information, and one of the staff will be in touch within 24 hours.

[Greenfield Community College](#)

Reach out at train@gcc.mass.edu or 413-775-1661.

[Springfield Technical Community College](#)

Reach out at workforcetraining@stcc.edu or 413-755-4225.

[Berkshire Community College](#)

Reach out at workforce@berkshirecc.edu or 413-236-2115.

[WayFinders](#)

1780 Main Street, Springfield, MA

Holyoke Leads Holyoke Works is a free nine-month job readiness program at WayFinders that offers a comprehensive combination of job placement support, financial skills, and interview strategies. Holyoke Leads Holyoke Works also provides free childcare, a Chromebook, and a small stipend to program participants.

Contact: (413) 233-1500

Valley Opportunity Council

35 Mt. Carmel Ave, 3rd Floor, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013

The Valley Opportunity Council offers several free workforce readiness and supportive adult education programs. Check your eligibility for these free programs!

- The [WIOA Out-of-School](#) program provides HiSET or GED preparation alongside job trainings and paid internships and job placements.
- [Adult Basic Education](#) classes include HiSET and GED prep, digital literacy classes, and support identifying next steps to employment or college.
- [Comprehensive Integrated Employment Services](#) provides adults who receive DTA benefits with job placement support and training, including CDL training and licensing.

Contact: 413-612-0206

Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts

15 Lenox Street, Springfield, MA 01108

Supports recent refugees (arrived in the last five years) with employment services, including job search, coaching, and employment authorization documentation. Reach out at 413-737-2601 or contact Tatyana Abashina, Employment Coordinator at t.abashina@jfwsm.org.

Westover Job Corps

103 Johnson Rd, Chicopee, MA 01022

Job Corps is a free federally-funded residential and educational program for low-income young adults ages 16-24. Job Corps offers structured academic and job training programs, including high school equivalency, to prepare young people to begin a career, pursue higher education, and more. In addition, housing, a dining plan, health services, living allowance, tutoring, and books and other supplies are provided.