

MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS

PREVENT OLDER ADULTS FROM EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:

SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF AN UPSTREAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE FOR LOW-INCOME OLDER ADULT RENTERS

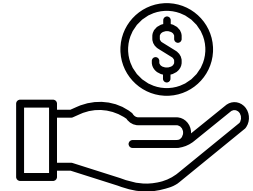
The number of retirement-age households facing cost burdens has reached an all-time high,¹ and homelessness among older adults is expected to nearly triple by 2030.²



In Massachusetts, older adults make up 38% of extremely low income renter households.³



Older adults living alone in Massachusetts are more likely to face economic insecurity than other older adults living alone in any other state.⁴



The cost of living for older adult couples who rent is the highest in Massachusetts (\$51,276, which is 124% of the national average).⁴

The Problem

The Solution

- Provide \$60 million in the Housing Bond Bill, also known as the Affordable Homes Act (**House Bill 4138**), to create bridge subsidies for older adults, aged 60 years and older, facing housing instability to allow them to remain in place while they await approval for long-term subsidized housing, through programs such as state-funded public housing, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).
- Low-income older adults participating in the bridge subsidy program would pay 30% of their income towards rent, with the bridge subsidy making up the difference in the total rent, up to 110% of the fair market rent. The program would be administered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in collaboration with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC).

1 Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. (2019). Housing America's older adults 2019. Harvard University. https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard_JCHS_Housing_Americas_Older_Adults_2019.pdf

2 Byrne, T., Culhane, D., Doran, K., Johns, E., Kuhn, R., Metraux, S., & Schretzman, M. (2019). The emerging crisis of aged homelessness. Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, UPenn. <https://aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness.pdf>

3 National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2021). Housing needs by state - Massachusetts. <https://www.nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/massachusetts>

4 Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, UMass Boston. (2023). Living below the line: Economic insecurity and older Americans, insecurity in the States, 2022. <https://scholarworks.umb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1065&context=demographyofaging>

Organizational Endorsers

Abby's House	Emmaus, Inc.	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Age Strong Commission	Essex County Community Organization	Massachusetts Military Support Foundation
AgeSpan	Friendly House	Metro Housing Boston
Aging Services of North Central Massachusetts	Friends of Boston's Homeless	Minuteman Senior Services
Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT)	Friends of Indian Senior Citizens Organization (FISCO)	MLPB
Attleboro Housing Authority	Grandmothers' Village Project	My Brother's Table
Bellingham Council on Aging	Greater Lowell Health Alliance	Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc.
Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority	Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS)	NeighborWorks Housing Solutions
Berkshire Housing	Grow Food Northampton	Neighbor to Neighbor
Beverly Bootstraps	Harwich Ecumenical Council for the Homeless, Inc.	New American Association of Massachusetts
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless	Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard	North Shore Community Action Programs
Boston Tenant Coalition	Hearth, Inc.	Northeast Community Services, Inc.
Brazilian Women's Group	HomeStart, Inc.	Old Colony Elder Services
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee	Homeless Prevention Council	Opportunity Communities
Cape Cod Council of Churches	Hopedale Council on Aging	Our Neighbors' Table
Caritas Communities	Housing Assistance Corporation, Cape Cod	Project Home Again
Catholic Charities Worcester County	Housing Greenfield	Rachel's Table
Center for Active Living, Plymouth	Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford	RCAP Solutions, Inc.
Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance	Island Housing Trust	Rosie's Place
Central West Justice Center	Jewish Family and Children's Services	Safe Passage
City of Chelsea Council on Aging	Justice 4 Housing	SeniorCare, Inc.
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.	La Colaborativa	Sewa Home Care
Community Service Network, Inc.	Lawrence CommunityWorks, Inc.	Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
Community Teamwork, Inc.	Lazarus House, Inc.	Somerville Community Corporation
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries	LEO, Inc.	Somerville Office of Housing Stability
Disability Law Center	LifePath, Inc.	South Shore Elder Services
Dismas House	Lower Cape Outreach Council	Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA
DotHouse Health	Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development	St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Community
Elder Services of Berkshire County	Lynn United for Change	Temple Sinai of Sharon, MA
Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands	Mass Home Care & Members	Uxbridge Council on Aging/Senior Center
Elder Services of Worcester Area	Mass Senior Action Council	Western MA Network to End Homelessness
Eliot Community Human Services	Massachusetts Catholic Conference	Wilmington Housing Authority
	Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless	Worcester Area Mission Society
	Massachusetts Councils on Aging	Worcester Community Action Council

To get involved or to support this initiative, please contact Julia Garvey, Community Organizer and Legislative Advocate at 781-595-7570 x36 or julia.garvey@mahomeless.org.

To learn more please also go to www.mahomeless.org/advocacy.