



# PREVENT OLDER ADULTS FROM EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:

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

## Organizational Endorsers

Abby's House

AgeSpan

Age Strong Commission

Aging Services of North Central Massachusetts

Alliance of Cambridge Tenants

Attleboro Housing Authority

Bellingham Council on Aging

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority

Berkshire Housing

Beverly Bootstraps

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless

Boston Tenant Coalition

Brazilian Women's Group

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee

Cape Cod Council of Churches

Caritas Communities

Catholic Charities Worcester County

Center for Active Living

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance

Central West Justice Center

Chelsea Council on Aging

Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.

Community Service Network Inc.

Community Teamwork Inc.

## The Problem

Low-income older adults' fixed incomes have not kept pace with rising housing costs seen throughout all regions of the Commonwealth, this has been especially burdensome for this population, resulting in more older adults facing displacement from their homes.

- Homelessness among older adults is expected to nearly triple by 2030. [1]
- Over the next 16 years, households in their 80s will be the fastest growing age group. [2]
- The number of retirement-age households facing cost burdens has reached an all-time high.[3]
- Older households with very low incomes are expected to climb sharply as the population ages. [4]
- 61.7% of the Commonwealth's residents older than 65 who live alone do not have enough income to cover basic expenses such as housing, food, and health care. It is even more dire for older adults of color: 91% of Latinx, 78% of Asian American, and 72% of African American older adults living alone cannot cover their basic expenses. [5]

## The Solution

- Provide \$10 million in state budget to create bridge subsidies for up to 1,000 older adults facing housing instability to allow them to remain in place while they await approval for state-funded public housing or a subsidy through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. 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 bridge subsidy program would be administered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in collaboration with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- Embed a housing stability screening tool into the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP) that would be taken at the time an older adult applies for state-funded senior housing through DHCD.
- Provide funding through EOEA to contract with a nonprofit agency (or agencies) that would take on the task of reviewing the housing stability screenings, as well as offer older adults legal aid assistance and access to Housing Advocates to ensure that at-risk older adults receive ongoing housing stabilization assistance until they move into state-funded senior housing or other safe, permanent housing.

1 "Aging Homeless Population Will Nearly Triple by 2030", UPenn Almanac

2, 3, 4 "Housing America's Older Adults" Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University

5 "Living Below the Line, Economic Insecurity and Older Americans", UMass McCormack Graduate School of Public Policy

**endorsers continued on back**

Organizational Endorsers Continued

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries	LifePath., Inc	Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA
Disability Law Center	Lower Cape Outreach Council	South Shore Elder Services
Dismas House	Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development (LHAND)	St. Clare of Assisi
DotHouse Health	Lynn United for Change	Temple Sinai of Sharon, Inc.
Elder Services of Berkshire County	Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless	Uxbridge Council on Aging
Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands	Massachusetts Councils on Aging	Western MA Network to End Homelessness
Elder Services of Worcester Area	Massachusetts Catholic Conference	Wilmington Housing Authority
Eliot Community Human Services	Mass Home Care & Members	Worcester Area Mission Society
Emmaus, Inc.	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute	Worcester Community Action Council
Essex County Community Organization	Massachusetts Military Support Foundation	
Friends of Boston's Homeless	Massachusetts Senior Action Council	
Friends of Indian Senior Citizens Organization (FISCO)	Metro Housing Boston	
Friendly House, Inc.	Minuteman Senior Services	
Grandmother's Village Project	My Brother's Table	
Greater Lowell Health Alliance	Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc.	
Greater Lynn Senior Services	NeighborWorks Housing Solutions	
Grow Food Northampton	Neighbor to Neighbor	
Harwich Ecumenical Council for the Homeless, Inc	New American Association of Massachusetts	
Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard	Northeast Community Services Inc.	
Hearth, Inc.	North Shore Community Action Programs	
Homeless Prevention Council	Old Colony Elder Services, Inc.	
Homestart, Inc.	Opportunity Communities	
Hopedale Council on Aging	Our Neighbors' Table	
Housing Assistance Corporation	Project Home Again	
Housing Greenfield	Rachel's Table	
Interchurch Council of Greater New Bedford	RCAP Solutions, Inc.	
Island Affordable Housing Trust	Rosie's Place	
Jewish Family and Children's Services	Safe Passage	
Justice 4 Housing	SeniorCare, Inc.	
La Colaborativa	Sewa Home Care	
Lawrence CommunityWorks Inc.	Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services	
Lazarus House, Inc.	Somerville Community Corporation	
LEO Inc.	Somerville Office of Housing Stability	

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](mailto:julia.garvey@mahomeless.org).

To learn more please also go to [www.mahomeless.org/advocacy](http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy).