

Immigrant Households
Massachusetts Resource Guide

This overview of resources for immigrants to Massachusetts has been prepared by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and EOHHS agencies, in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and will be updated as needed.

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A. Eligible Non-Citizen Immigration Status Qualifiers

- Lawful permanent resident
- Registry immigrant (admitted for permanent residency by U.S. Attorney General and eligible for citizenship)
- Haitian National pending Asylum determination

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- Conditional entrant
- Withholding grantee
- Person granted 1986 amnesty
- Resident of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, or Guam
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-identified
- Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)-Eligible Populations:
 - Refugees
 - Asylees
 - Cuban/Haitian Entrants
 - Certain Amerasians from Vietnam who were admitted into the U.S. as immigrants or who are already U.S. citizens
 - Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holder (SIV)
 - Victims of severe forms of trafficking who have received certification Letter, Eligibility Letter, or Interim Assistance Letter from ACF Office On Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)
 - Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP) (aka Afghan Non-SI/SQ Parolee)
 - U.S. Born Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (U.S. Born AHP)
 - Afghan SI/SQ Parolee
 - Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Resident
 - Minor with U-Visa
 - Minor with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
 - Individual with family derivative status

B. Refugee and Immigrant Services

The Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) administers the Massachusetts Refugee Resettlement Program (MRRP) through partnerships with sister state agencies, resettlement agencies, and ethnic and community-based organizations, which have the capacity to serve the culturally and linguistically diverse needs of newcomer populations. ORI coordinates and supervises the administration of the services under the MRRP for refugees, including the provision of cash and medical assistance, social adjustment services, refugee school impact and youth mentoring, health promotion, English language skills development, employment preparation and placement services, and care for the unaccompanied refugee minors. Most of ORI's programs supported by funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

In order to access ORR-ORI services and benefits, individuals and families must provide acceptable documentation demonstrating one of the immigration statuses for the ORR-eligible populations. Documents will be presented to case managers at any of the below Resettlement Agencies (RAs):

- Ascentria Care Alliance (Ascentria)
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston (CCAB)

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- Catholic Charities Agency of Springfield (CCS)
- International Institute of New England (IINE)
- Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts (JFSWM)
- Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)

For contact and service information for the RAs, please visit the following link
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ori-community-providers-directory/download>

ORR Policy Letter 16-01 outlines: (1) the statuses and documents that confer eligibility for Refugee Resettlement Program benefits; (2) the documentation that is needed to prove an individual is eligible; and (3) a suggested process for making eligibility determinations. This policy includes documents that provide proof of these statuses. These documents may or may not provide proof of identity, nationality, or entry date. For further reference, visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/policy-guidance/status-and-documentation-requirements-orr-refugee-resettlement-program>

Along with confirming status and eligibility determinations, individuals and families must include confirmation of identity, the date that an individual initially became eligible for benefits (i.e., "entry" date) and, in cases involving Cuban and Haitian entrants and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants, nationality. More than one piece of documentation may be needed to make all these determinations.

Once eligibility is determined, staff at Resettlement Agencies will provide the individual or family with the following services: Program Orientation; creation of detailed Self-Sufficiency Plans; Case Management; Referrals to Medical and Mental/Behavioral Case Management; school enrollment, LGBTQ+ Support Services; Community resource navigation and utilization for elderly clients, underserved clients, survivors of torture & trauma, single-parent households, and clients directly affected by COVID-19; transportation and accompaniment to scheduled appointments; assistance with understanding, accessing, and maintaining social services benefits; extended and specialized cultural orientation specific to client's needs; referrals to internal and external services (local community resources); access to translation and interpretation services; volunteer support for clients, including mentorship; emergency funding assistance for clients unable to access other resources, including support for housing, medical costs, and immigration services; group services (cultural and gender-based support groups, group cultural orientation, art therapy, youth education, digital literacy, and mental health and wellness programming); English for Employment Education with multiple levels; employability and employment services; curriculum development; referrals to internal or external Vocational Skill Trainings; referrals to Higher Education, including Community Colleges; assistance with job development and placement; employment follow-up assistance and post-employment services for career laddering.

C. Households with Documentation of Citizenship or Eligible Non-Citizen Immigration Status

C1. HEALTH CARE OPTIONS To receive the appropriate health care coverage, eligible immigration status for each household member who is applying must be proved.

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MassHealth will perform information matches with federal and state agencies to prove immigration status. If electronic data sources are not able to prove an individual's declared information, MassHealth will ask for additional documentation. MassHealth will send a Request for Information notice that lists the required forms of proof and the deadline for submitting them. Immigration status information is listed in Section 11 and on page 23 of the application. You can also find it at www.mass.gov/masshealth.

Non-U.S. citizens who are not eligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) or who do not have documentation of their immigration status may still qualify for MassHealth Limited, MassHealth coverage for pregnant women, CMSP, or the Health Safety Net. However, these individuals do need to supply MassHealth with:

- proof of income; and
- proof of identity to be eligible for the Health Safety Net.

Link to member booklet: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/member-booklet-for-health-and-dental-coverage-and-help-paying-costs-0/download>

Link to Eligibility Operation Memos (EOMs): <https://www.mass.gov/eligibility-operations-memos>

MassHealth Customer Service number: **800-841-2900** (TTY: 800-497-4648). Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

C2. CASH BENEFITS

Refugee Cash Assistance is available to eligible Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) for up to 8 months of arrival ORI administers the RCA through Public-Private Partnership with the resettlement agencies in Massachusetts. See [ORI regulations 121 CMR 2.0](#) for more details about the RCA benefits to ORR-eligible populations.

Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) are economic assistance (cash benefit) programs that help individuals and families explore opportunities and improve their finances. Both programs are administered through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).

TAFDC is a state and federally funded program that provides financial assistance and employment programming to families with children, and pregnant women, with little or no income. TAFDC is operated under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Participants receive childcare and transportation assistance to support their engagement in education, training, or other employment related activities. Certain TAFDC participants are required to perform a work-related activity as a condition of eligibility.

EAEDC) is a state funded program, which provides financial assistance to certain adults who are elderly or disabled, as well as children. Those eligible for EAEDC include people over 65 who

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are waiting for Supplemental Security Income payments to begin, individuals unable to work due to a physical or mental incapacity, and individuals who are participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission program.

- To apply in person: DTA maintains 19 local offices across Massachusetts. DTA's local offices and community kiosk locations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-transitional-assistance/locations>
- To apply by phone: Families can call DTA Assistance Line (877) 382-2363 or SNAP Senior Assistance Line: (833) 712-8027 for seniors

If a parent/guardian is receiving or has recently received TAFDC cash assistance from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) they may qualify for free or low-cost childcare to support their engagement in education, training, and employment activities. Contact DTA to see if you meet the criteria.

- For Child Care Resource & Referral Agency Search: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/child-care-resource-and-referral-agencies-crrs>
- For Employment Supports: Find DTA local Full Engagement Worker contact numbers here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/contact-dtas-employment-staff>

C3. ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program to provide food assistance via an Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card to low-income individuals and families. SNAP is funded by the federal government and administered through the states. The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) administers SNAP in Massachusetts.

- To apply in person: DTA maintains 19 local offices across Massachusetts. DTA's local offices and community kiosk locations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-transitional-assistance/locations>
- To apply online: Families interested in SNAP can initiate an application online at <https://dtacconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/>
- To apply by phone: Families can call DTA Assistance Line (877) 382-2363 or SNAP Senior Assistance Line: (833) 712-8027 for seniors
- To apply with a community partner: Families can also find help by contacting a local SNAP outreach partner: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/snap-outreach-partners>

In addition to monthly SNAP benefits on their EBT card to buy food, SNAP clients can also receive \$40, \$60 or \$80 a month back on their EBT card when they use SNAP to buy local produce via the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). Families can find a HIP vendor near them by visiting <https://www.DTAFinder.com>

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

The Massachusetts WIC Program is a welcoming place for all families including refugees and immigrants. WIC is **NOT** included in the federal government's **public charge** rule and does not ask about immigration and refugee status.

Massachusetts WIC is a federal funded nutrition program serving low to moderate-income women, infants, and children under five. WIC provides dietary assessments, nutrition education and counseling, benefits for specific nutritious foods prescribed for the individual by a nutritionist, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other health and social services free of charge to families who qualify. WIC also provides immunization screening and distributes coupons for fresh produce redeemable at Farmers' Markets.

The WIC Program is required to protect the privacy of all WIC participants and will keep all WIC information confidential. WIC cannot share any information without consent.

WIC services and written materials are provided in multiple languages; staff at the local programs reflect the diversity of the population served. WIC staff also have access to translators to provide appropriate customer service.

To apply for WIC:

- Check out WIC's **eligibility page** at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/check-eligibility-for-wic> to see how families can apply online for WIC services. Parents, grandparents, and foster parents may apply for children under the age of five years old who are in their care.
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- Call WIC at 1-800-942-1007 Monday through Friday 9am – 5pm.
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- For more information, visit www.mass.gov/wic
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C4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING & RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provides [a complete list of agencies, sorted by community, to assist with the following:](#)

- Rental Assistance programs operated by Local Housing Authorities & Regional Admin Agencies
- Emergency Shelter
- Housing Mediation Support

Local Housing Authorities (LHA) and Regional Admin Agencies (RAA) operate federal, state, and local Continuum of Care rental assistance programs.

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Households with documentation of citizenship or eligible non-citizenship immigration status are eligible for access to federal, state, and local Continuum of Care rental assistance programs.

- To apply for the federally funded mobile Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), federally funded Public Housing, Project Based Section 8 subsidies administered by the LHA's applicants must contact their Local Housing Authority for an application. Please see the contact list here: [Local Housing Authority Contact Listing | Mass.gov](#)
- To apply for the federally funded mobile Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) administered by the RAA's applicants must contact one of the 9 Regional Admin Agencies. Please see the contact list here: [Regional Administering Agencies Contact Listing | Mass.gov](#)
- To apply for state aided public housing and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) applicants must complete the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Program (CHAMP) application. Please access the link here: [Home - CHAMP \(state.ma.us\)](#)
- To apply for the mobile or project-based state funded Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), contact the Local Housing Authorities and Regional Administering Agencies by community. Please see the contact list here: [DHCD Resource Locator \(hedfuel.azurewebsites.net\)](#)
- To apply for Continuum of Care (CoC) housing resources, households must complete the Coordinated Entry process, which is specific to each of the 15 different CoCs in Massachusetts. The DHCD managed CoC Balance of State Coordinated Entry Process can be found here: [Continuum of Care Programs \(COC\) | Mass.gov](#)

A complete list of CoC's by region can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/continuum-of-care-service-areas/download>

Rental Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) is a homelessness prevention program (available for single individuals and family households) that may assist households with up to \$7,000.00 within a 12-month period, for such costs as rent arrears (overdue rent), moving and startup expenses, furniture, and utility costs to preserve current housing or move into new housing. Information and access to RAFT can be found here: [Emergency Housing Payment Assistance during COVID-19 | Mass.gov](#)

Mass Housing is a quasi-public agency that provides financing to produce affordable housing in Massachusetts. [A comprehensive list of](#) all financed affordable housing throughout the state, categorized by city/town, including details of the building location and management company contact information, as well as unit size, accessibility features, and whether project-based subsidies are attached to the units is maintained on the Mass Housing website.

Additional resources:

- [More information on Affordable Housing in MA](#)
- [Citizens Planning and Housing Association \(CHAPA\)](#)

- [Housing Consumer Education Centers](#)
- [Information on Non-Citizen Eligibility for Federal Housing](#)
- [Housing Works Inc. helps to connect those keeping housing with opportunities and advocates](#)
- [Mass Access registry of accessible and barrier free rental units for persons with disabilities](#)
- [Guide to obtaining Housing Assistance in MA](#)
- [Housing Choice Vouchers FACT Sheet](#)

FEDERAL

Program	Description	How to Apply
<u>Mobile Section 8 (HCVP)</u>	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market,</p> <p>Can be leased anywhere in the U.S.,</p> <p>Tenant pays 30-40% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p>	<p>2 centralized waitlist applications,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 with the Local Housing Authority and • 1 with the Regional Administering Agencies <p>Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
Public Housing (Federal)	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p> <p>Building owned and managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities often included),</p>	<p>Must apply with the Local Housing Authority of the building or town you are looking to live in</p>
Project-Based Section 8	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p> <p>Subsidy managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Building managed by 3rd party property management company,</p> <p>Building is typically containing a mix of private (un-subsidized) units,</p>	<p>Must apply with the Local Housing Authority of the building or town you are looking to live in (for subsidy eligibility)</p> <p>And, with the building's property management company (for tenant selection screening/eligibility)</p>

STATE

Program	Description	How to Apply
<u>Alternative Housing Choice Voucher Program</u> (AHVP)	<p>Subsidized housing program specifically for persons living with a disability,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market,</p> <p>Can be leased anywhere in MA,</p> <p>Tenant pays 25-30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)</p> <p>Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
<u>Mass Rental Voucher Program</u> (MRVP) Tenant-Based	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market,</p> <p>Can be leased anywhere in MA,</p> <p>Tenant pays 35-40% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)</p> <p>Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
<u>Mass Rental Voucher Program</u> (MRVP) Project-Based	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p> <p>Subsidy managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Building managed by 3rd party property management company,</p> <p>Building is typically containing a mix of private (un-subsidized) units,</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)</p> <p>May also apply with Local Housing Authority of the town in which you are looking to live (optional)</p> <p>And, with the building's property management company (for tenant selection screening/eligibility)</p>
Public Housing (State)	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p>	<p>Must apply with the Local Housing Authority of the</p>

	<p>Building owned and managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities often included),</p>	<p>building or town you are looking to live in</p>
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CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

Specifically, for persons living with a disability and have a former experience of homelessness

(Not an exhaustive list, must go through the local CoC for programs available)

Program	Description	How to Apply
<p>Rental Assistance</p> <p>Tenant-Based</p>	<p>Rental Assistance program,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market (within the CoC’s geographic area),</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p> <p>Subsidy managed by a CoC community partner,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p> <p>Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
<p>Rental Assistance</p> <p>Sponsor-Based</p>	<p>Rental Assistance program,</p> <p>Sponsor-Based Voucher to lease in the private market (within the CoC’s geographic area),</p> <p>Tenant is not the official leaseholder, the CoC community partner is the tenant of record and responsible for the full rent to the landlord</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms) to the CoC community partner,</p> <p>Subsidy managed by a CoC community partner,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p> <p>Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
<p>Permanent Supportive Housing</p> <p>&</p> <p>Rapid Re-Housing</p>	<p>Subsidized housing program paired with supportive services provided through a CoC community partner,</p> <p>Housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p>
<p>Transitional Housing</p>	<p>Interim housing stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p>

	Up to 24 months of housing paired with supportive services,	
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STATE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND HOUSING SUPPORTS

Program	Description	How to Apply
<u>Rental Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT)</u>	Financial assistance for homelessness prevention, May assist with up to \$7,000.00 within a 12-month period, Can receive assistance with rent arrears, moving and start up related costs, as well as furniture and utility costs,	Centralized application on-line can be found here: <u>Select your language - NMA Portal (mass.gov)</u>

D. Other Households

D1. HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

There are community health centers across Massachusetts that provide health care for everyone. It doesn't matter how much you earn or whether you have health insurance or your immigration status. Avoid expensive emergency room bills by coming to a community health center.

To find a health center:

1. Go to this website: www.massleague.org/findahealthcenter/index.php.
2. Type in your zip code or address.
3. You will get a list of community health centers nearby.

D2. CASH BENEFITS

There are no cash benefits currently available for this group.

D3. ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD

Families without documentation of eligible status can obtain additional food resources by calling:

Project Bread Food Source Hotline: It's toll-free and confidential, dial 1-800-645-8333. Hotline Hours: Monday-Friday: 8am - 7pm.

Mass 211 – Dial 211 or a toll-free number is available 1-877-211-MASS (6277). Mass 211 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Mass 211 is an easy way to find or give help in your community.

Any individual who has one of the qualifying non-citizen statuses listed above is eligible for SNAP regardless of other members of the household without a qualifying status. Parents of children who are US citizens or have a qualifying status different than their parents are eligible to apply on behalf of their children. In these instances, the EBT card would be issued in the parent's name regardless of whether the parent is actively receiving benefits. EBT cards cannot be issued in the name of a child.

See Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program section in C3.

D4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING & RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provides [a complete list of agencies, sorted by community, to assist with the following:](#)

- Rental Assistance programs operated by Local Housing Authorities & Regional Admin Agencies
- Emergency Shelter
- Housing Mediation Support

Local Housing Authorities and Regional Administering Agencies operate state funded rental assistance programs and local Continuum of Care rental assistance programs. State rental assistance and homelessness prevention programs as well as Continuum of Care housing resources do not require the submission of documentation of immigration status of the applicant.

- To apply for state aided public housing and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) applicants must [complete the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Program \(CHAMP\) application.](#)
- To apply for the mobile or project-based state funded Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), contact the [Local Housing Authorities and Regional Administering Agencies by community.](#)
- To apply for Continuum of Care (CoC) housing resources households must complete the Coordinated Entry process, which is specific to each of the 15 different CoC's in MA. The DHCD managed CoC [Balance of State Coordinated Entry Process can be found here.](#)

[A complete list of CoC's by region can be found here.](#)

Rental Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) is a homelessness prevention program (available for single individuals as well as family households) that may assist households with up to \$7,000.00 within a 12-month period, for such costs as rent arrears, moving expenses, furniture, and utility costs to preserve current housing or move into new housing. [Information and access to RAFT can be found here](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provides [a complete list of agencies, sorted by community, to assist with the following:](#)

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- Rental Assistance programs operated by Local Housing Authorities & Regional Admin Agencies
- Emergency Shelter
- Housing Mediation Support

Local Housing Authorities (LHA) and Regional Admin Agencies (RAA) operate federal, state, and local Continuum of Care rental assistance programs.

Households made up of at least one-member with citizenship or eligible non-citizenship immigration status are eligible for access to federal rental assistance programs as well. However, the determined tenant rent share amount is based on a percentage of the ratio between those in the household with documentation of legal immigration status and those without in the household. Often this results in a tenant rent share for the household that is **NOT** affordable.

- To apply for the federally funded mobile Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), federally funded Public Housing, Project Based Section 8 subsidies administered by the LHA’s applicants must [contact their Local Housing Authority](#) for an application.

To apply for the federally funded mobile Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) administered by the RAA’s applicants must [contact one of the 9 Regional Admin Agencies](#).

Additional resources

- [More information on Affordable Housing in MA](#)
- [Citizens Planning and Housing Association \(CHAPA\)](#)
- [Housing Consumer Education Centers](#)
- [Information on Non-Citizen Eligibility for Federal Housing](#)
- [Housing Works Inc. helps to connect those keeping housing with opportunities and advocates](#)
- [Mass Access registry of accessible and barrier free rental units for persons with disabilities](#)
- [Guide to obtaining Housing Assistance in MA](#)

STATE

Program	Description	How to Apply
Alternative Housing Choice Voucher Program (AHVP)	Subsidized housing program specifically for persons living with a disability, Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market, Can be leased anywhere in MA, Tenant pays 25-30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),	Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP) Private landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process

<p><u>Mass Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)</u></p> <p>Tenant-Based</p>	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market,</p> <p>Can be leased anywhere in MA,</p> <p>Tenant pays 35-40% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)</p> <p>Privat landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
<p><u>Mass Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)</u></p> <p>Project-Based</p>	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p> <p>Subsidy managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Building managed by 3rd party property management company,</p> <p>Building is typically containing a mix of private (un-subsidized) units,</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)</p> <p>May also apply with Local Housing Authority of the town in which you are looking to live</p> <p>As well as with the building's property management company (for tenant selection screening/eligibility)</p>
<p>Public Housing (State)</p>	<p>Subsidized housing program,</p> <p>Project-Based Voucher (attached to the building and cannot be leased in the private market),</p> <p>Building owned and managed by the Local Housing Authority,</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities often included),</p>	<p>Must apply with the Local Housing Authority of the building or town you are looking to live in</p>

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

Specifically, for persons living with a disability and have a former experience of homelessness

(Not an exhaustive list, must go through the local CoC for programs available)

Program	Description	How to Apply
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Rental Assistance Tenant-Based	<p>Rental Assistance program,</p> <p>Tenant-Based Voucher to lease in the private market (within the CoC’s geographic area),</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms),</p> <p>Subsidy managed by a CoC community partner,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p> <p>Privat landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
Rental Assistance Sponsor-Based	<p>Rental Assistance program,</p> <p>Sponsor-Based Voucher to lease in the private market (within the CoC’s geographic area),</p> <p>Tenant is not the official leaseholder, the CoC community partner is the tenant of record and responsible for the full rent to the landlord</p> <p>Tenant pays 30% of income towards rent (utilities may or may not be included depending on the lease terms) to the CoC community partner,</p> <p>Subsidy managed by a CoC community partner,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p> <p>Privat landlords may also have a tenant selection screening process</p>
Permanent Supportive Housing & Rapid Re-Housing	<p>Subsidized housing program paired with supportive services provided through a CoC community partner,</p> <p>Housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p>
Transitional Housing	<p>Interim housing stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing,</p> <p>Up to 24 months of housing paired with supportive services,</p>	<p>Must apply through the CoC Coordinated Entry System (which varies by CoC),</p>

STATE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND HOUSING SUPPORTS

Program	Description	How to Apply
<u>Rental Assistance to Families in</u>	<p>Financial assistance for homelessness prevention,</p> <p>May assist with up to \$7,000.00 within a 12-month period,</p>	<p>Centralized application on-line can be found <u>here</u></p>

<u>Transition (RAFT)</u>	Can receive assistance with rent arrears, moving and start up related costs, as well as furniture and utility costs,	
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D5. MA Adult Education Services

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services funds programs to establish free access to basic adult education services in public school systems, public agencies, and community-based organizations across the State. These services are for residents of the Commonwealth aged 16 or older. Services are designed to enhance an individual’s literacy skills—their ability to read, write, and speak English—and to compute and solve problems at the levels of proficiency needed to function as parents/family members, workers, and members of the community. Eligible agencies that receive funds from DESE are encouraged to address the needs of clients with learning disabilities. Programs also offer activities that prepare students to pass a high school equivalency assessment and move on to post-secondary education or vocational training and/or acquiring or advancing in employment.

To learn where adult education programs are located in MA, please access a streamlined directory in the link below or download a [detailed directory](#) that includes program descriptions, site information, and program websites.

[Adult Education Program Directory - Adult and Community Learning Services \(ACLS\) \(mass.edu\)](#)

E. Additional Resources

- [MAundocufund.org](#)
- [DESE Welcoming Newcomer and Refugee Students & Families](#)
- [Catholic Charities](#)
- [Family Resource Centers](#)
- [Immigration Advocates Network](#)
- [Rian Immigration Center](#)
- [Mass211](#)
- [More information on Food and Cash Assistance in MA](#)
- [Mass Law Reform Institute information about immigrant housing and benefits, including health care options](#)
- [Health Law Advocates](#)
- [Health Care for All for information and assistance with health benefits](#)

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