



## **HOUSING SEARCH RESOURCES**

*(Hint: The best way to search is on-line!)*

### **I. NEED ACCESS TO COMPUTER AND/OR INTERNET?**

**Public Libraries** offer access! And librarians are a wealth of knowledge on conducting research of all kinds. For a directory of public libraries, go to:

<http://www.masshome.com/libs.html>

Each library has their own computer/internet use policy and procedure, but they are pretty similar. Here is the policy for the Boston Public Library system:

<https://www.bpl.org/about-us/official-policies/computer-use-and-technology-policy/>

### **Metro Housing | Boston Housing Consumer Education Center**

<https://www.metrohousingboston.org/what-we-do/homelessness-and-eviction-prevention/>

Discuss your housing needs with a counselor. HCEC walk-ins are seen on a first-come, first-served basis on Monday, Wednesday and Friday- you must sign up to be placed on the HCEC waitlist between 8:45AM and 1PM. 1411 Tremont Street, Boston; (617) 425-6700; [resourceline@metrohousingboston.org](mailto:resourceline@metrohousingboston.org)

### **II. SEARCH TOOLS/WEBSITES:**

#### **Mass Housing**

[https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt/community/rental\\_housing/240/rental\\_housing\\_home](https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt/community/rental_housing/240/rental_housing_home)

Mass Housing has links to assist you in locating affordable rentals, housing authorities and upcoming affordable housing lotteries. Mass Housing also manages the **Mass Housing Rental Housing List**, which lists affordable housing developments. Many of these will have waitlists, so interested parties will need to call each site and request an application. Try google searching "MA Affordable Housing List".

#### **The Mass Access Housing Registry**

[www.massaccesshousingregistry.org](http://www.massaccesshousingregistry.org)

Mass Access (also referred to as the Accessible Housing Registry) is a free online program that matches people with disabilities with accessible housing in the community. Questions about the website? Contact **CHAPA** at 617-742-0820.

#### **Metrolist**

<https://www.boston.gov/metrolist> A clearinghouse for income-restricted and affordable housing opportunities in Boston and neighboring communities. We can help you search for housing, or list your rental unit for free in our database.

### **Rooms**

Because it is very difficult to find housing, consider looking at SROs (single-room occupancy units). Check papers such as the Metro, The Boston Globe, The Boston Herald, and local town newspapers. Many rooms are listed on Craig's List [www.boston.craigslist.org](http://www.boston.craigslist.org).

### **III. PUBLICLY SUBSIDIZED HOUSING:**

Individual towns have their own **housing authorities**. Many towns accept the Universal Standard Application for State Aided Housing. You can complete it and submit it by hand, or you can do it on line at: **CHAMP** (Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Public-Housing) <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us>. Using this site, you will be able to apply for state-aided public housing and find any existing applications you may have. Moving forward, as your address changes or other information on your application changes, you will only need to update information at this site. All of your changes will be recorded at the housing authorities where you have applied. If you have questions, please ask staff at your local housing authority to help you.

Other towns have their own application (i.e., Boston and Cambridge). To find out which towns accept the standard application, call each town you are interested in.

You are allowed to apply to as many towns as you like and we suggest you apply to more than one town to increase your chances. We recommend you keep a copy of your application forms.

#### **The Boston Housing Authority**

The Boston Housing Authority has a 10 year waiting list for people who do not have emergency status. To qualify for **emergency status** for Boston and most housing authorities, you must either:

- Be considered homeless – this means proving you are staying in a shelter. Staying at a friend/family member's house is not considered homeless by the housing authorities.  
Or
- Be a victim of domestic violence with police records/possible hospital records of the violence.  
Or
- Be homeless due to a no-fault eviction.

If you are interested in obtaining a Boston Housing Authority application, you can either go to their office at **56 Chauncy Street, Boston**, or asked to have an application mailed to you. For directions or to request an application, call **(617) 988-3400**.

#### IV. HOUSING VOUCHERS

**Section 8:** a federal (countrywide) program that gives funds to different sources which then give vouchers to individuals needing housing. Section 8 waitlists may be very long and it can take years for applicants to get Section 8 vouchers.

There are **2** applications you can fill out for Section 8.

- a. **Section 8 Project Based Voucher Program DHCD application:** When you finish this application you can send it to the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, 125 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111
- b. **Centralized Section 8 Waiting List Application:** You only need to send this application to one housing authority listed on the back of the application form. You can choose any of those towns, send it to their housing authority and then you will be on the list for all of the towns.

#### **The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides rental assistance through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP). State funded "mobile" vouchers can be used anywhere in Massachusetts, but "project-based" vouchers are only available in specific apartments.