

GOAL: Acquire subsidized housing

This is a list of recommendations for documenting a housing search within Massachusetts.

You are strongly encouraged to add all housing search activities to this document for your own records. If possible, keep copies of paper applications, too!

If you need further assistance, please contact your BCIL advocate, or call our main number: 617-338-6665

*****Instructions*****

- Document all housing search-related contacts (whether by phone, e-mail, zoom or in person). Include dates, name of person you interacted with, and the content of the communication.
- Before applying for housing, make sure to check your list to see if you have already submitted an application to the same housing authority or property management company. If you accidentally send a duplicate, you might end up losing your “place in line”!
- Have you moved since submitting an application? Make sure to keep your address up to date with ALL individual housing waiting lists, or you could miss time-sensitive correspondence!

Waitlists are organized by category, below.

Centralized Section 8 Waitlist (Massachusetts mobile voucher):

MRVP :

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-rental-voucher-program-mrvp>

AHVP: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/alternative-housing-voucher-program-ahvp>

- Apply using: gosection8.com OR paper application, available on mass.gov

| Housing Authority | Date(s) of Contact | Phone Number/email/address | Notes |
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Federal Mobile Section 8 Voucher: HCVP : <https://www.metrohousingboston.org/what-we-do/voucher-programs/housing-choice-voucher-program-section-8/>

| Housing Authority | Date(s) of Contact | Name, Phone Number/email/address | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
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Project Based Section 8 (all Massachusetts towns outside of Boston)

Apply here: <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/>

Or use paper application: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/champ-application-form-english/download>

Select towns to apply to based on:

- **Location:** can I get to doctor’s appointments and grocery stores? Can I realistically commute to and from my job? Will I be able to rely on my current supports?
- **Transportation:** will I use paratransit aka The RIDE? Is this town in their service area? Would I use MBTA, is it close by? Is commuter rail an affordable option to get to Boston from this town, if needed? Fares change based on distance from Boston
- **Wait lists:** The waits are shorter as you move further away from Greater Boston and/or public transportation.
- **Other preferences:** Remember: if you say “no” to an apartment offered to you in a town that you applied to, you will be moved back to the bottom of the waiting list. Only choose towns that fit your individual needs

List individual Towns Applied to Below:

| Name of Housing Authority (City/Town) | Date(s) of contact | Contact Information/ Phone Numbers | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
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Boston Housing Authority (BHA):

- A paper application is recommended for Boston project-based housing
- Make selections for individual housing developments based on your neighborhood preferences. Remember: Turning down an offer for a unit for any reason other than accessibility needs will result in a return to the bottom of the waiting list
- Find BHA application here and submit by mail:
https://www.bostonhousing.org/BHA/media/Documents/Applicants/Preliminary-Application-Package_2016-08-30_Updatedblank.pdf
- If needed, request a paper application mailed to you by calling (617) 988-5171
- Confirm receipt of BHA application by calling (617) 988-5171 or (617) 988-3400

