

The Massachusetts

Healthy Homes Program

Improving Housing Quality & Resident Health Now and for the Future



FY26 BUDGET ASK: \$5 MILLION

The **Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program (MHHP)** is scaling up the Commonwealth's efforts to address serious health problems caused by substandard housing. Lead, poor indoor air quality, and other substandard housing conditions lead to developmental delays, respiratory disease, and displacement, among other serious, preventable consequences.



Our Aged Housing Stock is Harming Resident Health

- MA has the second oldest housing stock in the U.S.
- More than 70% of homes in MA were constructed before lead paint was banned in 1978.
- 15 of the 17 High Risk Communities for Childhood Lead Poisoning are Gateway Cities
- Many Gateway Cities suffer from asthma rates 2-3 times the state average.



MA Healthy Homes Program Solution

- Help property owners improve health and habitability for themselves and tenants through grants, loans, and forgivable loans.
- Address hazards including asbestos, mold, pests, and lead.
- Dedicate at least 50% of the funds to buildings in Gateway Cities, due to the heightened need and racial equity impact.
- Support technical assistance to building owners, contractors, and others to ensure successful program implementation.



Housing Quality is a Racial Equity Issue

- Black children are nearly **2.5 times more likely to have lead poisoning** than white children.
- Emergency Department visits for asthma were **2.5 and 3.5 times higher for Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic children** as compared to white children.
- Lead poisoning and asthma-related hospitalizations are significantly higher in Gateway Cities, which have between 2 and four times the statewide average of Black or Latino residents.

The Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program

MA Healthy Homes Coalition

Healthcare Organizations

- Baystate Health
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Boston Community Health Collaborative
- Boston Medical Center
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Beth Israel Lahey
- Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Mass General Brigham
- Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association
- UMass Memorial Health

Community Organizations

- Abundant Housing Massachusetts
- African Community Economic Development of NE
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
- Asian Community Development Corporation
- Baystate Health Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Tenant Coalition
- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.
- Citizens' Housing and Planning Assn. (CHAPA)
- Codman Square NDC
- Community Development Partnership
- Community Economic Development Center-New Bedford
- Disability Policy Consortium
- FamilyAid
- Fenway CDC
- Franklin County CDC
- Health Resources in Action
- Hearthway
- Hilltown CDC
- Home City Development, Inc.
- Homeowner's Rehab, Inc.
- Jamaica Plain NDC
- Lawrence CommunityWorks, Inc.
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Madison Park Development Corporation
- Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants
- Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance
- Massachusetts Association of CDCs (MACDC)
- Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative
- Massachusetts Public Health Alliance
- Metro Housing | Boston
- Metro West Collaborative Development
- Mill Cities Community Investments
- NeighborWorks Housing Solutions
- NewVue Communities
- North Adams Community Housing Organization
- North Shore Community Development Coalition
- Office of Planning and Economic Development, City of Holyoke
- Public Health Institute of Western MA
- Quaboag Valley CDC
- RevitalizeCDC
- South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corp.
- Somerville Community Corporation
- The Neighborhood Developers
- Urban Edge
- Way Finders

Questions? Contact Nathanael Shea,
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