

Metro West Collaborative Development Community Investment Plan 2024-2027

Executive Summary



Metro West Collaborative Development (Metro West CD) is a non-profit community development corporation founded in 1992 serving a 46-town target area in the MetroWest region of Boston. Our mission is to collaborate with MetroWest communities to expand housing opportunities by: Building and preserving affordable housing, helping families find and keep their homes, counseling community leaders to achieve their housing goals, and advocating for supportive policy and investment. Our vision is that together, we ensure that the MetroWest region thrives as a home and community for all.

Goal #1: To complete construction of 84 units of affordable housing and obtain permitting for another 100 units.

Over the next three years Metro West CD will be advancing the following projects: **Glen Brook Way, Medway** – 92 units over two phases, including 48 family and 44 senior affordable rental apartments. Phase I is complete and Phase II was completed in 2024. **Packard Street Commons, Hudson** – Metro West CD won the development rights for this town-owned parcel in 2021. We aim to complete the construction of 40 units of affordable family rental housing in early 2025.

West Newton Armory, Newton – Metro West CD was selected as the developer of this historic site in partnership with Civico. In 2025 we plan to close on the project financing and begin construction to preserve the historic headhouse of the Armory and create 43 units of intergenerational rental housing.

5 Auburn Street - In 2023, Metro West Collaborative Development was selected by the Town of Natick to develop the town-owned property at 5 Auburn Street into 32 units of 100% affordable housing. The project will preserve the historic Eliot School and create a new, fully accessible building. We aim to complete permitting, obtain financing commitments, and start construction in the next three years.

Other sites – Metro West CD is always meeting with community groups, housing advocates and property owners to find new affordable housing development locations. Call us if you have an idea!

Goal #2: To assist 1,500+ low and moderate income households annually in their search for stable, safe and decent housing. Metro West CD's **Ready Renter Program** provides monthly bulletins to thousands of households seeking affordable housing. **Weekly Housing Clinics** are conducted for households with complex housing problems or assistance with their search for affordable housing options in the MetroWest region. We also provide **rental and direct cash assistance** to tenants or landlords as partnerships and funding allows. Presently, Metro West CD has partnered with Waltham-based WATCH CDC to administer a four-year grant through the Newton-Wellesley Hospital to address housing insecurity, reducing its impact on mental health, and increasing economic independence through mentorship. Metro West CD also hosts workshops on topics related to affordable housing.

Goal #3: To support municipal governments and private developers in their efforts to comply with affordable housing regulations.

Many towns in the Metro West region have small planning departments; through a regional housing services model, Metro West CD currently supports nine communities (Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Devens, Harvard, Hudson, Lancaster, Littleton, Stow) a.k.a the **Assabet Regional Housing Consortium.** MWCD also supports small developers + property owners in the administration of their **affirmative fair housing marketing** (AFHM) plans, lotteries, and tenant recertifications. We also assist with or participate in Subsidized Housing Inventory monitoring and affordable housing lotteries on behalf of over a dozen private developers and municipalities.