

Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness

Regional Network Innovations to Ending Homelessness

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April 1, 2009*



Recent History of Massachusetts Homeless Initiatives

- Nov. 2007- Governor Patrick signed executive order re-establishing the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness
- Jan. 2008- Council is charged with implementing the recommendations of the MA 5-year plan developed by the Legislative Commission to End Homelessness
- July 2008- ICHH secured \$8M to be used to develop and support regional networks across the state and \$1.75M for Moving to Economic Opportunity Pilot.
- July 2008- 200+ state employees convened to establish 7 working groups: Housing Needs & Supply, Uniform Assessment Tool, Policy & Regulations, Civic Engagement, Asset Development, Prevention Resources and Housing Stabilization & Support Services.

Systems Change Efforts

In hopes of getting the **right** resources to the **right** people **right** time, Massachusetts is currently transitioning the state shelter program from the emergency assistance department (DTA) to the department responsible for housing delivery (DHCD) effective July 1, 2009.

As a result of restructuring, residents can expect:

- More seamless access to housing services
- More effective use of state resources
- Better coordination and integration of services across systems and programs
- More timely and appropriate services at the local level
- Accelerated housing placements with support services
- Reduced need for shelters

Regional Network

Broad-based cross-sector partnership responsible for demonstrating how greater coordination and local innovations can improve the Commonwealth's ability to eradicate homelessness.

- Regional Networks will test best practices through flexible housing resources and innovative services.
- Must have a Leadership Council and a Convening Agency and Network Members
- Required to build upon and integrate with other local existing networks and regional planning processes
- Have a Plan to End Homelessness that has a regional approach in the geographic area covered by the Regional Network.
- Must have clear decision making processes and governance structure conducive to regional collaboration.

Convening Agencies represented in the 8 regional pilots include; a Local United Way Chapter, Non Profit Agencies, State Municipalities, a Local Housing Authority, and Planning Commissions.



Regional Network Goals

Goal: Decrease the Need for Shelter

Goal: Achieve Housing Placement Outcomes

Goal: Collect Data and Measure Impacts

Goal: Create Opportunities for Broad-Based
Discussion with Diverse Stakeholders

Goal: Implement a Regional System that is a Model for
Accountability and Transparency to
Consumers and the Public

Goal: Implement Systems Change to Create
Sustainability

Members of the Regional Network

Representation from:

- Regional offices of state agencies
- Private housing agencies
- Social service providers
- Municipal leaders
- Philanthropies
- Community Development Corporations
- Business leaders
- Regional non-profit housing agencies
- Local Workforce Investment Boards
- School systems and other educational institutions
- One Stop Career Centers
- Veteran service organizations
- Corrections, parole boards, and probation officers
- Local Housing Authorities
- Community leaders
- Community Action Agencies
- Labor organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Housing, homeless, and disability advocacy groups
- housing courts and the judicial system
- Law enforcement
- Homeless and formerly homeless consumers
- Academic Institutions
- Public health agencies and departments
- Federally qualified health centers
- Health Care for the Homeless grantees
- McKinney-Vento educational liaisons

ICHH Regional Networks

Region

Convening Agency

Boston

Department of Neighborhood Development

Metro Boston

Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership

North Shore

North Shore Housing Action Group

Merrimack Valley

Community Teamwork Inc.

South Shore

United Way of Greater Plymouth County

Cape and Islands

Housing Assistance Corp.

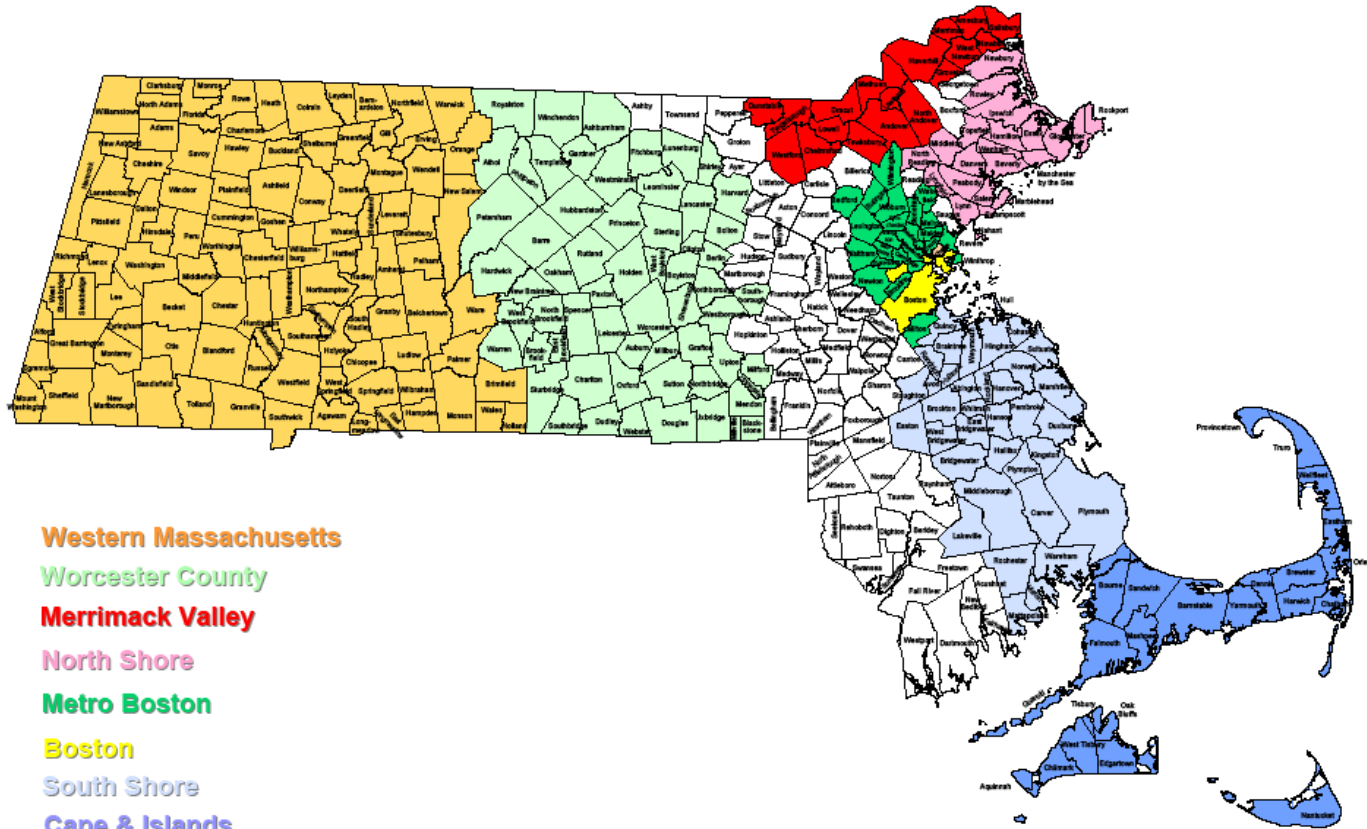
Worcester County

City of Worcester

Western Mass.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

ICHH Regions



Western Massachusetts

Worcester County

Merrimack Valley

North Shore

Metro Boston

Boston

South Shore

Cape & Islands



Key Innovations

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Flexible Subsidies
- Triage and Assessment
- Housing First/ Low Threshold Housing
- Coordinated Case Management
- Early Warning Systems
 - Prevention and Diversion
 - Courts
 - Schools
 - Housing Authorities



Innovation Samples

- The South Shore Regional Network will employ a triage system in order to move families and individuals out of shelter and into permanent housing. Network staff will aid in assessment and provide support services.
- The Cape and Islands Regional network plans to set up a 24 hour triage phone line and create a Client Coordinating Council that will assess client needs within 24 hours.

Innovation Samples

- The Western Mass Regional Network will continue to oversee the REACH program: a low threshold housing program which integrates outreach, engagement, assessment and housing stabilization and support services. In addition, they will work with housing courts to prevent evictions.
- The Metro Boston Regional Network will build on a diversion pilot at local access points, employ an “employment first” strategy, develop a master list of chronically homeless individuals and focus on tenancy preservation.