



SURVIVORS, INC.

Spring / Summer 2013

SURVIVAL NEWS

Volume 25, Number 1

...the voices of low-income women

WE ARE 25!

That's right Survival News is 25 years old this year! We are the oldest, continuously published, women's, grassroots anti-poverty news journal in the U.S. And, believe it or not all of our founders: Dottie Stevens, Betty Reid Mandell, Diane Dujon and Claire Cummings are still actively involved in the publication of this unique, original and award-winning paper! With no office and virtually no staff, we have stuck together to get the "I love this paper!" out every year with varying frequency, depending on the donations, contributions and grants we are able to secure.

Our kitchen and dining room tables have been the main location of our "mock ups", lay out, and cutting and pasting that goes in to every paper. Beginning with "blueboards, razors, and hot wax and graduating to the computer publishing program, Pagemaker One through to Pagemaker Seven and on, literally hundreds of low and no-income women and their allies have written the articles, columns, poetry, and given or written the personal profiles, taken the photos, and submitted the drawings, comics and artwork, and of course our Centerfold

Survival Tips, that have graced our pages for the past 25 years (and counting).

Rarely has there been anything but original work, and \$25 was always, (and somehow miraculously), paid for submissions by low income women. Our first Editor, and all of our Editors have been Co-Editors, since each edition required many hands, was Betty Reid Mandell, followed by Claire Cummings, Claire La Pointe, Jackie Dee King, Linda Carney Goodrich and our current Editor, Dottie Stevens, who is the soul and keeper of the gate, which is always open, and our flame for the whole 25 years! Thank you, Dottie!

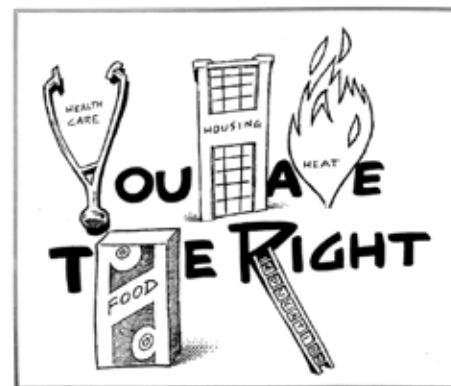
Highlights of our quarter century, far too many to list here but would include: Number One – Just managing to get the paper out at least once to four times a year for 25 years! In the late 80's we incorporated as Survivors, Inc., to become a not-for-profit in order to receive grants that required us to be more than a news journal and forced us to create projects that moved women out of poverty.

The first of these was The Jericho Project which brought the walls down between welfare recipients and social workers in a series of workshops in the early 1990's; The publication in 1996 of the second edition of For Crying Out Loud: Women's Poverty in the United States, which won an international award as the best book on social justice in North America, with articles by Dottie, Diane, Claire and Betty and edited by Diane; Computer training; Earned Income Tax Preparation Training; Grant writing training; Claire's brainchild photo exhibit The Art of Survival: Documenting A Movement, A Twenty Year Retrospective of Dottie Stevens' Photographs with her four panel mural, "River of Protest", which has travelled all

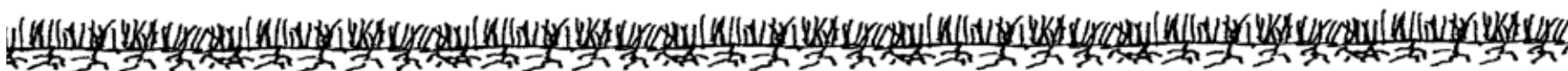
over from the Newbury College Library Gallery, where it opened, to the Brockton Public Library, The UMass College of Public and Community Service, The U.S. Social Forum of 2010 in Detroit, MI, to its present smaller exhibition at Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Roxbury, MA; the support for the United Nations Declaration Of Human Rights Cities, including the Boston City Council endorsement; the recent honor of being selected to contribute our organization's historical papers to The Sophia Smith Collection of Smith College, the oldest women's history archive in the United States ; and finally, the constant formal and informal support of low and no-income women and their allies in the struggle for social and economic justice, which includes many successful efforts to increase allowances, especially for women and children suffering in poverty. We have had our low points when we thought we might not be able to carry on, but always, always, so far, we have maintained our mission, our commitment and our spirit and have made it to this great and unexpected achievement together! We are proud to be here and thankful to all of our supporters over these many years.

Survivors, Inc.
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Mattapan, MA 02126

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**SURVIVAL
TIPS** BEGIN ON PAGE 17



SURVIVAL NEWS originated as a project of ARMS (Advocacy for Resources for Modern Survival), a welfare rights organization at the University of Massachusetts. It is published by Survivors, Inc., a non-profit Massachusetts corporation of low-income women and our allies building a movement for welfare rights and economic justice.

Survivors, Inc. Collective: Claire Cummings, Frances Darden, Diane Dujon, Debbie Ferretti, Terri Hinton, Jackie Dee King, Betty Reid Mandell, (ex officio), Mary Moore, Islande Paul, Lenore Pereira, Morrigan Phillips, Dottie Stevens, Laurie Taymor-Berry, Shakita Stafford, Tram Nguyen, Teephee Pereira, Chaud Renaud, Meiko Rollins, Aislinn Wallace

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$10 for individuals, \$25 for organizations. Free to low/no income people. Single issues are \$1. Visit our website: survivorsinc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Survival News needs typists, reporters, artists, poets, to work on the paper, as well as, work study outreach workers, and archivists to archive our 23 years of historical documents. Have fun doing rewarding work for a good cause! Email Julie at wonderfulworker@aol.com for more information.

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Phone: (617) 298-7311; e-mail: masswelf@aol.com



OUR MISSION

We are a group of low-income women and their allies who organize and educate around poverty, welfare and low-income survival issues. We offer training in writing, speaking, advocacy, computer skills, desktop publishing, organizing, membership and leadership. With these skills we are able to provide a forum for the voices of low-income women to be heard. We connect welfare office outreach and campus organizing with local and broader grassroots efforts to eliminate social and economic injustice.

Welfare Speakers’ Bureau

Survivors, Inc. has a busy Speakers’ Bureau on Welfare. We are eager to share our knowledge with your group. We generally speak in teams of at least two people, usually including a current or former welfare recipient who is a welfare activist. The other speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, including board members of Survivors, Inc., community activists, and committed academics.

Fees are sliding scale and free to low income groups. To get a speaker, call 617-298-7311.

SURVIVAL NEWS pays \$25 to low-income people for each article, poem, or graphic that we use. The editorial board reserves the right to select material, and will give people help with writing upon request.

Our Supporters

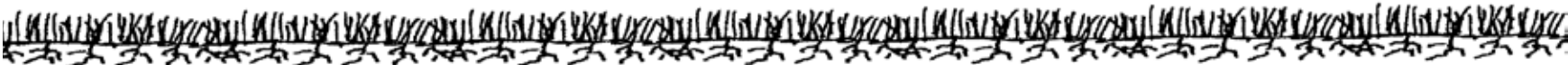
Survivors, Inc. would like to thank the following foundations for their generous support of our work for humane welfare policy and economic justice for all: **Barbara Lee Foundation, Poor People’s United Fund, Common Stream, Alice W. Dorr Foundation, Farnsworth House, Community Works, Resist, Dudley St. Neighborhood Initiative, Twelfth Baptist Church and Haley House Cafe.** We also thank all of the individuals who contribute to our efforts through gifts of money and time.

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*Since you asked: The grassroots running on the bottom of our pages were created by our editor, Claire Cummings. If you look closely you can see that the roots represent people on the move!



Warrior Fashion, Survivors' Style

by Chaun Janelle Renaud

"I think how we dress, as activists, is the window to who we are speaking for". -- Cornelius "Cebo" Campbell

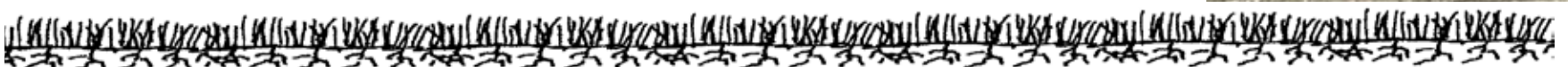
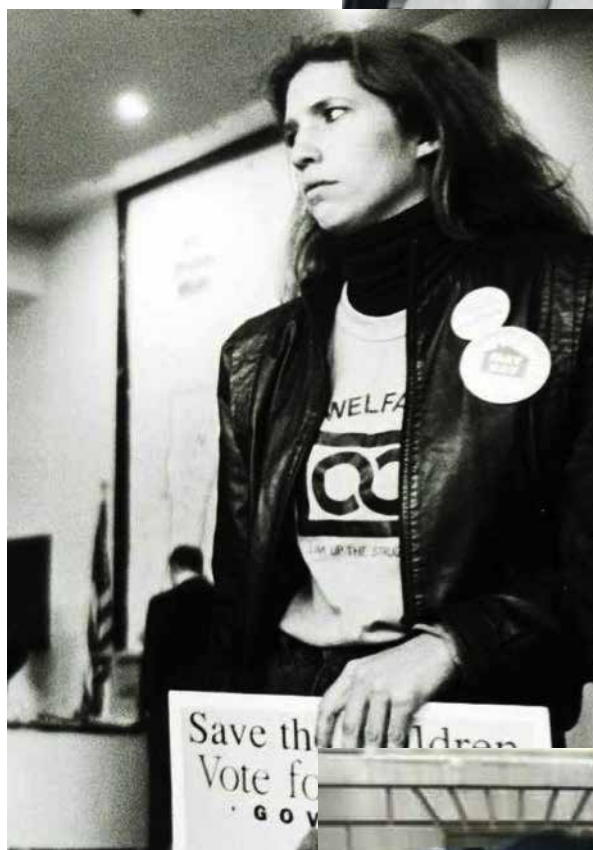
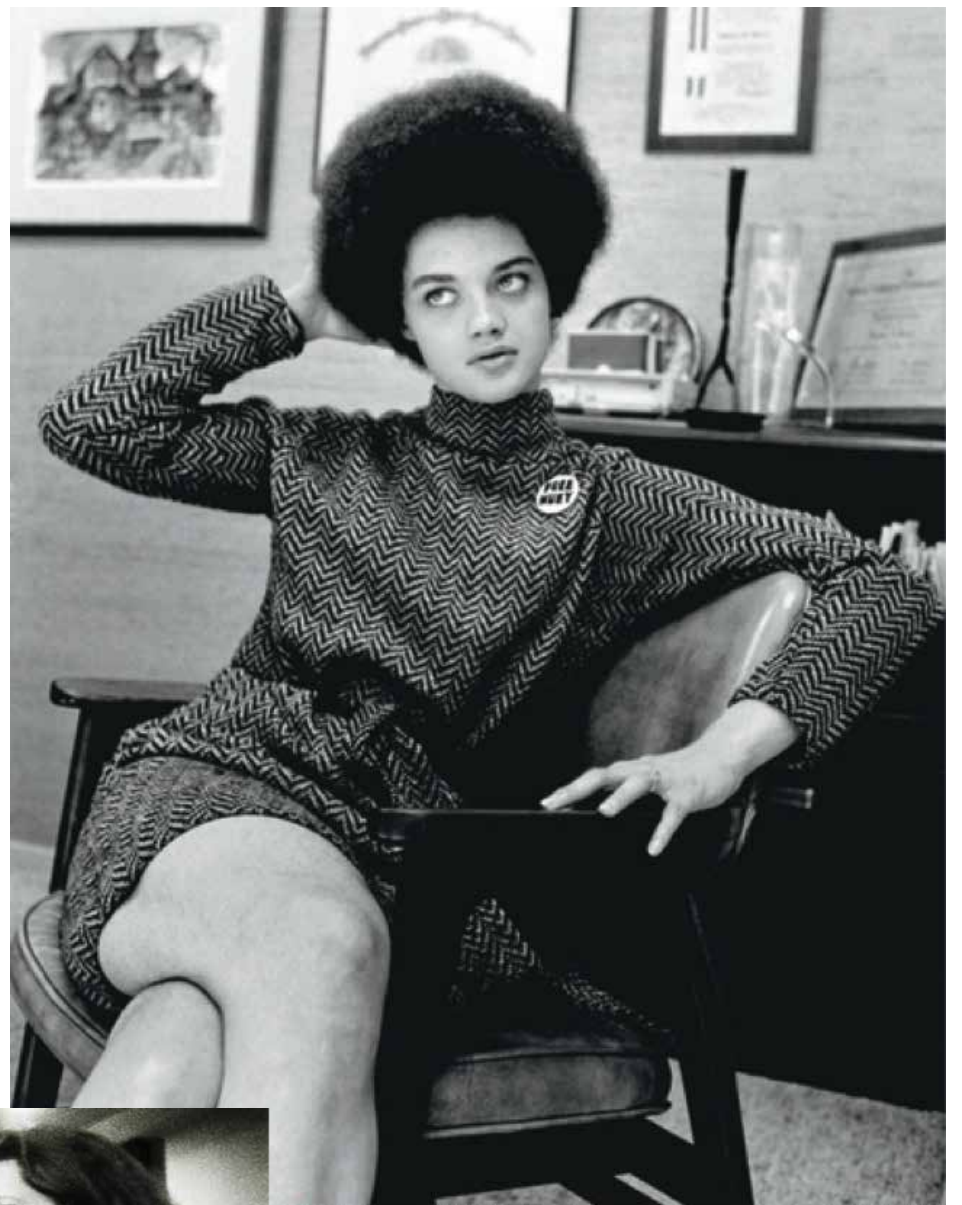
Cheri Honkala, Vice-Presidential Candidate for the Green Party 2012 and Co-Founder of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign or PPEHRC can truly be named a "photographer's dream". With her Cher-like tresses and her leather motorcycle jacket and logo T's she found herself captivated by and in front of the lens of famed photographer Richard Avedon. During her 25 year career as an Activist, photographs of Honkala have reflected her nature as a warrior; her stance is powerful, her presence stoic and statuesque, her profile (is classic?) It is as if she is posing but not posing. Honkala reflects the Movement; her cause and those with her, and her appointed position as a Warrior. Was this on purpose? No, there is nothing pretentious about Honkala, this woman exudes power and beauty (naturally). Cheri Honkala is the unofficial "style icon" of the Movement.

Oddly enough fashion and activism have been intertwined throughout history and movements' past. Dr. Kathleen Neal Cleaver, former Press Secretary of the Black Panther Party, was photographed in a leather mini-skirt and shades holding an automatic weapon during her duration as a member of the Black Panthers. Cleaver's image represented duality: dangerousness linked with self defense and the protection of others, and at the same time, feminine and a sexy "cool".

Fashion and style are typically viewed as frivolous and reflecting pretention and "snobbishness" by many in the non-profit sector but by the general public as well. It is not so much about fashion as it is about style. It was Diana Vreeland (deceased), high priestess of fashion, Editor-in-Chief of both Harper's Bazaar and Vogue during her 50 year career who stated that "Fashion is part of the daily air and it changes all the time, with all the events.

You can even see the approaching of a revolution in clothes. You can see and feel everything in clothes". Dottie Stevens, Co-Founder and Director of Survivors Inc. surely can be noted for her feathered pixie cut, her eclectic "bling" and snazzy sneakers, "for comfort" says Stevens.

Activists are either protesting in the blazing heat and sun or the numbing and burning (freezing?) cold, hammering out the issues in meetings and sessions with bureaucrats, schmoozing at galas and fundraisers when necessary and working directly with the populations for which they serve and must be prepared for each and every occasion. Activists must be presentable, comfortable and above all else professional and if an activist can add her or his own flair or twist to their presence, more power to them!



Arnie King Commutation Update Winter/Spring 2013

By Dianne Zimbabwe

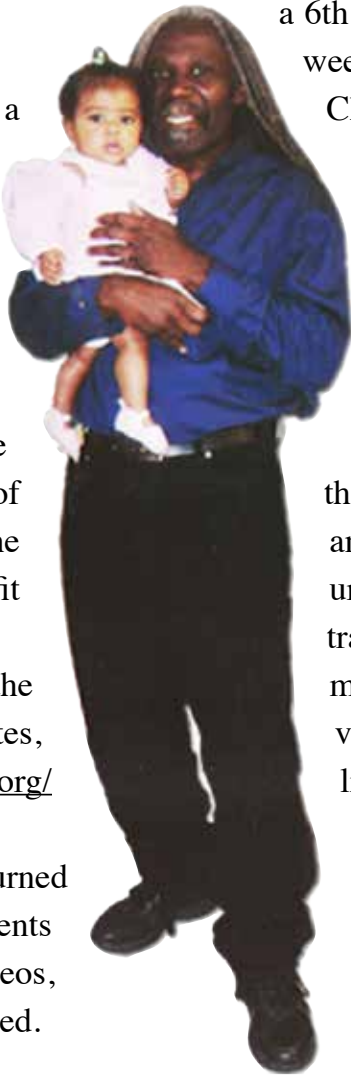
Warm Greetings,

In the year 2012 Arnie King entered his 41st year of a natural life sentence with 2 new community service awards and a 3rd one on the way. Fighter against racism, Leader in social justice, and Model of courage, Arnie does whatever he can to keep moving in a positive direction. He joined with others in the community through barbed wire and shackles, to plan and present the May 16, 2012 Forum on Commutation and Parole at Harvard Law School. The forum highlighted the broken process that occupies a place on paper in the charter of Massachusetts, but does little today to inspire real hope for the hundreds of lifers without parole eligibility who could benefit from its implimentation.

Avideo of the forum, which brought together members of the parole board, victims, former prisoners, and prisoners’ advocates, can be viewed online at <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/Events/Event.aspx?id=100162>.

Through Barbed Wire’s 4th Friday series also returned to the Community Church of Boston with free monthly events featuring prisoners’ writings, guest readers and speakers, videos, and discussions. As always, audience participation is encouraged.

In October, a new petition for a hearing was filed with the Governor’s Council and forwarded to the Advisory Board of Pardons. They are expected to announce their decision whether to grant or deny



a 6th hearing for commutation of sentence this coming week. Phone calls and letters of support can be sent to Chairperson Josh Wall, Advisory Board of Pardons, 12 Mercer Rd, Natick MA 01760 (telephone: 508-650-4542).

Please be sure to send a copy of your letter to Arnie at either: throughbarbedwire@yahoo.com or Bay State Ctr, Box 73, Norfolk MA 02056.

Arnie King will celebrate his 60th birthday this week on December 12. There are postcards and petitions to sign and send to Governor Patrick, urging him to approve this 25 year long effort of transformation, reconciliation, and redemption. For more information and to sign an online petition visit www.arnoldking.org To be added to the email list for updates and events including 4th Fridays, or to connect via Linkedin contact Arnie at throughbarbedwire@yahoo.com

Detention Lunch ~ Time Served

by Mary Lou Ferro ~ December 12, 2012

Based on a 12 year-old black boy's experience in middle school, & being racially targeted since 3rd grade.

Gypsy Moth

Lay your net at the door,
It ain’t worth fightin you no more
I came here in peace
Not to share your misery.
We aint waltzing on the floor
but I aint hurting anymore.
And I can leave,
A woman, freed!!!!
Not a slave to you no more.

Like a gypsy moth
against the sky,
Breaking from the earth
Flighted, rebirth
From the warm cocoon
To the floral swoon,
Of the hungry moon.
Reminds me of the beast within,
lunar powered with a fifth of gin
They made you commit those sins
So Heaven on earth, won’t be yours again.

And from my lofty flight I see
That I am looking down at me.
My mirrored image on the floor
And not afraid of you no more
Instead I see an emptied shell
Of a man that lives in shades of Hell
And I am sorry for his soul,
And grateful, I won’t hurt, no more.
Butterflies are free and so am I
Gypsy Moths ain’t known to cry.

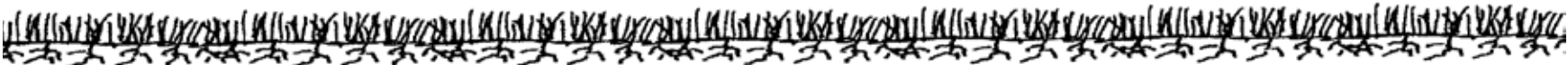
– Christina Schnetzer

detention camp
standing on a ramp
where the sun doesn’t shine
domino figures all waiting in a line,
shortly you become
encased in stacked, colored bricks
strategically entwined
with electricity,
with others who shine white,
from nearby surrounding towns,
outdated, phased out, farms,
mansion size homes in the woods
one day one told him I can fight...

children gathered here in arms
that scold you for being bold,
not accepting of their rules
not adapting to their school's
prison like set ups
military teachers in false get ups

so you better not question
your detention boy!
lest another one be given ~gives the
detainer
her daily dose of sick, encrusted, joy...
detention, you're detained,
they are telling you are not the same

while the cafeteria awaits
a time looked forward of
social grace, of smiles exchanged,
of laughter lost & gained
but detention segregates
& teaches lookers on to hate~detainees
because you see~it has been a set up
from grade 3
your name doesn't matter anymore
you've entered their trap, and there isn't
a door
out ~of the clatter~of their collective
voices,
giving you none of the same choices
of your white counterpart,
of their disengaging heart
only one door now awaits
unless we pray you can escape
on the other side
a pipe lined, rusted, arch that bangs
unbearable screeches, unheard pitches,
of dark,
leading you~directing you, teaching
others that this is for you,
to another brick encased space
that will further suck your mind
as you serve out their incessant time.



Jeanne M. Dever

August, 18, 1942 – May 27, 2012

By Dottie Stevens

Long time Boston resident and community activist Jeanne Dever entered into eternal rest on May 27, 2012. She leaves behind her children, (predeceased Deborah Salisbury), Donna Diggin, Denise Monahan and husband Garry, Darlene Dever and grandchildren Elizabeth Diggin, Jessica Diggin, Paul Salisbury, Edward Salisbury, Philip Clark, and Julia Clark. Jeanne was an avid activist for welfare rights, human rights, and legal rights most of her life. She was a member of the Tenants Task Force with the Boston Housing Authority. She had served as Vice President of Greater Boston Legal Services for many years; she was a member of the National Welfare Rights Union and a current board member of Survivors Inc. Jeanne was the lead plaintiff in the 1983 federal District Court



class action lawsuit against the DTA, Dever V. Spirito, which resulted in a Consent Decree ordering DPW to not terminate food stamps when a household lost cash assistance. It did not result in any legislative act, but a federal court order and food stamp regulation changes that benefitted thousands of Massachusetts food stamp recipients. Jeanne traveled to England with other sisters in the struggle and protested the war by dancing on the deadly missiles. Jeanne was arrested many times while exercising her right to protest by civil disobedience, she believed in breaking a small law in order to expose bigger crimes perpetrated against poor and homeless people in this country. Jeanne always credited her beloved Grandfather for bringing her to visit the State House in Boston at a very young age where she first acquired her fiery spirit for advocating and told her this is your house and you can create change for making and changing laws that affect people’s lives. Jeanne was an excellent cook and loved feeding people, she made gorgeous floral arrangements and gave them to friends and family at Christmas. Although she was sick for a long time she was still active and attended and spoke at, The History and Legacy of Welfare Rights in Massachusetts in March 2012. She will be sorely missed.

The clouds were

moving around

By Kork Ok

The clouds were moving around
I heard the sound of the thunder
It reminded me of my grandmother
She watered the flowers every day
She took care of my sister and me
She was so skinny and so old
But looked healthy and very strong
She used to tell us the stories
While my sister and me went to sleep
And prepared the food for all of us
She prepared lunch and breakfast
Never forgot and never complained
She was very loving and very kind
All of her best friends were like her
They always brought food and vegetables
To give to her every month
She used to teach them Buddhist Dharma
Every times when they met at her place
She was very religious and a peacemaker
Both my father and mother used to follow
In her footsteps of compassion
Loved all of their children equally
Now she is gone; not coming back
My heart is broken and I miss her
The only one left is my mother
We do not have any pictures
Of my grandmother left for memory
Because the Khmer Rouge monster
Destroyed them all by burning them up
We all miss her a lot
We pray for God to bless her
Let her come back in the future
No matter what happened in her past life.
We always remember her every day and night
Wishing for her to have a new life
Like all of us
Three years, eight months and twenty days

We were living under
The Khmer Rouge regime
We were living with fear, scared and afraid
Because the way of their ruling
Was by killing and murdering,
Their own people and followers
Innocent people and educators
Also doctors, teachers and lawyers
Even farmers could not escape
They always said we were traitors
Taking us away to be murdered and executed
They didn’t care if you were innocent or intellectuals
According to their law, no one is useful
Three years, eight months and twenty days
I never forgot,
No matter what will happen in the future
I will tell all the people and my brothers, sisters and children
The way the Khmer Rouge had murdered
All of my people and the children
The way they were killing,
Shooting my sister and my father for no reason
Also their own innocent people;
I’ll write a book of stories about them
Tell all of my brothers, sisters and children step by step.
Now we have a new leader
Who also murdered reporters and journalists
Every time they wrote criticizing their politics.
The way they lead is just like the communists;
They will kill them, no questions asked.

Letters

Have your voice heard

Send letters, articles, subscriptions, donations, and all correspondence to:
Dottie Stevens, 95 Standard Street, Mattapan, MA 02126.
Phone: (617) 298-7311; e-mail: masswelf@aol.com

Dear Survivors Inc,

Thank you for publishing Chaun Renaud's piece on the existence of shackling incarcerated women while in labor.

I'm writing to let you know that formerly incarcerated women, who have experienced shackling while in labor, and their allies have been organizing to pass anti-shackling legislation and to make sure that, once passed, such laws are actually followed. I am working with WORTH (Women on the Rise Telling HerStory, a fantastic and amazing group of currently and formerly incarcerated women in NYC) on their new Birthing Behind Bars campaign.

WORTH members helped pass New York State's anti-shackling legislation in 2009, making NYS the 7th state to do so. Since then, nine other states have passed legislation limiting or banning the use of shackling on women who are in labor. But there is still a long way to go. Advocates in Massachusetts and Georgia are currently pushing for anti-shackling legislation in their respective states, but have not yet succeeded. Advocates in both states recognize the importance of the stories of women who have experienced shackling in raising awareness (and outrage) among both legislators and the general public.

Recognizing the importance of including the stories and experiences of the women most impacted, WORTH has launched its Birthing Behind Bars campaign to spark a national discussion around reproductive justice issues in prisons and to push for action. Below is our announcement about the launch of our website (and the start of our campaign).

Thank you again for helping to publicize this issue (and many others).

Sincerely,
Vikki Law

Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles Of
Incarcerated Women,
(winner of the 2009 PASS Awards) <http://resistancebehindbars.org>

Outstanding!!!

Karen Schaumann
Ypsilanti, Mi

Wow Dottie!! Just beautiful!! Bravo and congratulations to all of you for your hard work, dedication, talent, and stick-to-it-iveness in making this happen!! I will go through and read it very carefully, page by page, but just wanted to say how great the paper is!

Love,
Jacqueline "Jackie" King

Dear Ms. Stevens,

My name is Harold Tilson Jr. I just had the opportunity to read several copies of, Survival News. I'd like to send you a donation.

Take care and keep up the "Great Work".

Harold Tilson Jr.

Hello Dottie:

I want to thank you for including me on your e-mailing list for "Survival News on-line".

I enjoyed "Survival News" from the first moment that I saw it. Yes, partly, because I felt flattered to have been included in the coverage. But, frankly, one of my favorite groups of people is women who will stand up and fight for what they think is right.

As I prefer to phrase it: "My Mother was the best Man I ever met!" Dad was more than just OK too. But, neither he nor I could or can match Mother's insistence on justice and decency. Don't get me wrong: Mother was not what we think of as "perfect". I remember once hearing Mother say, ever so faintly, under her breath about a neighbor lady with a menagerie of pets: "The zoo!"

And, Mother being hard of hearing, was noticed--by me--to be turning off her hearing aid during a meeting of club ladies so that she could read the lips of the ladies across the room. Lovely, "Yes!"; nice, "Not always!".

I know this: If Mother were alive today, "Welfare Rights Union" would be her favorite group. Not because she needed help. But, because she would want to know how she could give "work".

More precisely, Mother would want to work along side you ladies! And, she would love all of you ladies because you all have the gumption to fight for what is right.

I apologize for becoming sentimental to the point of slop. I don't think of my Mother very often. You ladies bring out the sloppiest of me. I don't regret it. Indeed, it makes me feel good.

Is there any benefit for Welfare Rights?:

A group of us at MWRO have been putzing about trying to deal with a version of Rapid Transit that is so cheap that it could benefit inner-city neighborhoods. As soon as I've been able to figure out how to make copies of the DVD we put together, I will make sure that you (and, the Boston Chapter of the WRU) get a copy.

It really should be dedicated to you good folk in Boston because my understanding of it was born in the lady's house the night of the meeting (and dinner) when someone said, of Boston's rapid transit system: "It doesn't serve us!"

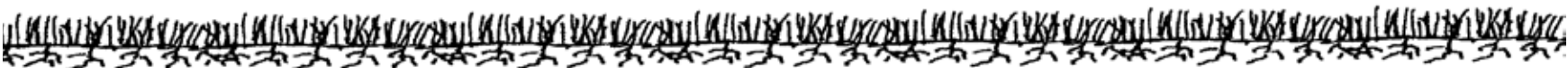
A good part of my life since has been devoted to trying to figure out how to construct a rapid transit system that is both affordable and flexible enough so that even the poorest neighborhoods can have reasonable transportation. In effect, a system that can get folk out to jobs without wearing them out just getting there so that they can bring their checks back to their neighborhoods and rebuild those neighborhoods.

What I am suggesting is that people be made part of the solution rather than warehoused so that they continue to be part of the problem.

MANY OF YOUR CITIES HAVE EXCELLENT RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEMS! YOUR QUESTION SHOULD BE: "HOW CAN WE TIE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD INTO THE RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT ALREADY EXISTS IN OUR CITY?"

IF I MIGHT?: THINK BEYOND POOR!

John Kavanaugh



Song for Homelessness

(Tune: Old Gray Mare)

Jean Miller, Boston Raging Grannies

What we need is a roof over children’s heads,
Warm homes and comfy beds,
Three meals a day are fed.
Don’t make children face more fear and dread.
Let’s end homelessness right now.

Don’t listen to the bureaucratic heads.
They all have warm and comfy beds.
Don’t make children face more fear and dread.
Let’s end homelessness right now.

Reframing Masculinity in Impoverished Communities

by Chaun Renaud

Most households are headed by a lone, single mother, only a handful of men are left due to the increasing incarceration rate, or just plain abandoning the responsibility of children, of family. So this woman struggles alone with few resources and young males grow up without a positive male image and most females are learning that they must be their own protectors and providers, to master duality at such a young age. This is the image of the inner city. This is the image of most communities of color, particularly African American, across the United States. And in a city such as Boston where there is a huge class disparity we see this firsthand.

So what ever happened to manhood within the communities? Can feminism be blamed for why there are such few responsible males left in these communities? Can feminism be blamed for why familial responsibility is not instilled in these men? If all are left are the mothers and female relatives to raise these young men would it not be the opportunity to educate them about integrity and responsibility or should the responsibility shifted elsewhere. Feminism cannot be blamed nor can anything else explained. The idea of masculinity must be redefined and reframed in impoverished communities.

Masculinity is not a tool to brutalize and terrorize women and children. Masculinity should not be used as a tool to reproduce and produce children that will not be well taken care of. Protection, provision, sacrifice and guidance are just some of the principles of masculinity; to put family first, to protect the women and children, to provide for the family and to guide the family. But since so many men have either abandoned their post or have been removed from it the women are left with the dual role and so few resources. If we educate young men and boys about responsibility toward family then we will have few impoverished families. It will not eliminate poverty overall but at least mothers will not have to struggle alone and impoverished children can at least be raised within a stable and positive family structure.

Ah, masculinity is a beautiful concept as long as we instill that it is not a weapon for destruction but a tool for building healthy, strong, and stable families. There are fewer and fewer men left. Bill Cosby addressing the 500 all female student graduating class of 2006 at Spelman College, an all women’s college: “Who’s running the show? It appears that the male is, but I have news for you. It’s your turn”. There may be hope with the young men coming up in the world. Impoverished communities and the country at large can no longer take the hit.

Out of Control

By Deja Carr

How old are you? Still Legally a child? Well then who controls you? I don’t mean “puppet and puppet strings”, I mean really think about it. Think about who signs the paper that keeps you in good health. Whose money do you use to buy groceries? For most of, the first thing that comes to mind is our parents. What is life like for homeless teenagers who many not even have that privilege. A lot of the hardships that lead to homelessness carry out a theme of having no control, Substance Abuse, Unaffordable Housing, Neglect, Mental Illness and Foster Care are just a couple ideas. Homelessness causes teens to surrender control in many aspects of their own lives.

Being a homeless teenager can also mean having no control of others. It can mean being forced to sprout a thick wall in between you and the rest of the world. The combined detriment of being young, therefore looked down upon in society for lack of experience, knowledge and opinion and being poor are two stifling parts of life that young people have to endure.

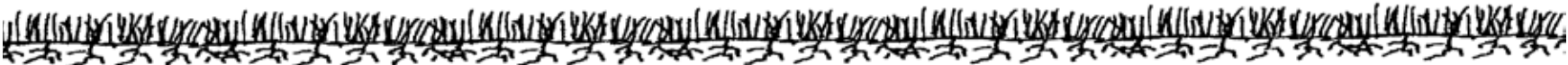
I am 5’11” and 230 pounds but I know that in my life, money means power. To a school official who reads my file has opinion of me that is being shaped by my lack of an address. My life is not a laminated love story for the middle class. It is not a testimony. Testimonies require a happy ending, or resolution. We all know that poverty is not a synonym for a happy ending. Poverty causes a shift in power, the lower being the lesser and more controlled and the more affluent having a larger say. Sound familiar? The hooplah in history books are not far from your actual life.

Abuse or conflict at home that makes a teen feel powerless is a common reason for running away. Situational runaways makeup for the largest number of homeless teens. So what is worse? No control of what others may do to you on the street, or the certainty and lack of control of what your family will do to you.

Control of funds is almost impossible. Though many people believe that a teen’s situation may improve if they simply get work or go home, the number of jobs willing to hire people without a high school degree is low. Lack of experience may also contribute to joblessness, thereby supplying homeless teens with minimum wage jobs that will not encompass even the lowest living expenses.Ten percent of young homeless women are pregnant. Pregnancy, which is to some, one of a woman’s most important parts and choices of life may have been more out of a homeless girl’s control than the normal woman.

Ways to take more control of your life:

1. Speak up! When something is on your mind, let someone know. Everybody feels empowered differently, but being your own advocate when you can will mostly likely help you
2. Take advantage of the resources in your community. if you live in a city, it’s the public transportation. If you live in a place with lots of farms, that is a possible job and food opportunity.
3. Do whatever is in your power to do well in school. If you live in a place with a great educational background, ride it until the wheel falls off. Use every single resource you can get your hands on, because that is what they’re there for.
4. Learn your rights. Ever heard of the Mckinney Vento act? Get familiar!
5. If you have a talent that you believe will take you somewhere, do not stop applying (even if you don’t have the money), don’t stop. Please.



Should Prostitution Be Legalized ?????



By Karen Rock

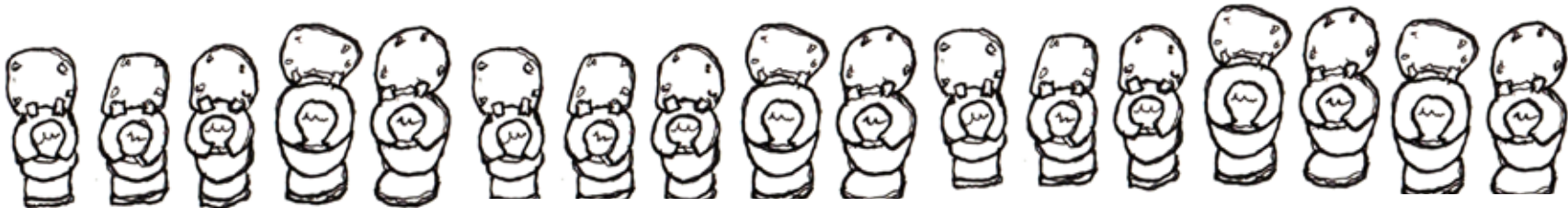
Grandma here, ever keeping my wrinkled fingers on the pulse of American poverty. Now that I have your attention, lets talk about something more mundane, like public access to toilets. I was washing the remainder of my clothing with the remainder of my detergent when “gotta go” hit me. I ran to the closest pizza shop, only to find a sign on the door. “Restrooms For Patrons Only”. I didn’t think pizza shops had patrons. I thought they had customers. I decided to be a patron and rushed inside, there to find a line of folks I recognized from the laundromat, buying a slice. I was broke, so I slipped toward the bathroom door. “Restrooms for Patrons Only” yet another sign read. Nobody occupied this particularly shabby bathroom with a not working dusty sink. So I popped in and shut the door. I was just getting off the toilet when the door flew open. (It had a not working lock) Not to be unkind, but there stood a. particularly peculiar looking man, about my age.

“Thank you,” he said. It was probably the best thing that had happened to him since puberty.

“We have to stop meeting like this,” I said, and I truly meant it.

You may be wondering where I’m going with all this and, for a moment, I was, myself. Remember, the personal is political. Statistics show that there are three battered women for every shelter bed and nights only shelters are over loaded. The food bank lines are growing as what is now called “food insecurity” grows. Ever since Homeland Security was put in place, we underclass folks have experienced job insecurity, dental insecurity, housing insecurity and now it’s bathroom insecurity. Thank God Homeland Security is making my country safe for democracy or I’d really have something to worry about.

Somehow the more desperate the underclass is becoming, the more exclusive the private and public sectors are getting. A local library had the police remove a homeless woman for occupying one of three bathrooms too long. She was washing up at the sink. Even the local coffee shop (I won’t say which one) where one can write revolutionary things on chalk boards in the bathroom has become a place where people go for a \$5.00 latte and act a bit snottee with their laptopees. (also known for drug deals and other kinds of hooking up, insider trading.) The broke mother whose child has tinkle running down it’s leg is no longer welcome.



I really want to go back to prostitution, I mean, as a subject. One may believe thru American media that Obama’s secret service men were the first to discover prostitution, sort of like Columbus discovered America. I beg to differ. The American Heritage dictionary offers a second definition: “Trading one’s talents for an unworthy cause.” Obama was already doing it with congress, congress has always done it with corporations and Wall Street, American journalists are doing it with political parties and government and I think I did it in my last two marriages. But if you are occupying a chair in a restaurant or public building and you see someone being denied bathroom use and you just sit there acting entitled, you’re doing it, too. Stand up. With a broad, inclusive sweep of your arm say, “That person’s with ME.”

More Revolutionary Acts to Follow,
Grandma



The Right to Exist. Springfield, MA

Panic with an Empty Wallet and Capital-P. by Deja Carr

You’re out with your best friends,
in line for pizza and the sweat
begins to drip. In less than 5 minutes
they will know
that you do not have money.
Again.

What do you do? do
you mockingly search your wallet and pray
a slender 10 slithers

itself into it or do you sit
down and complain
of a stomach ache.
You are ashamed.
this is not actually a poem
but I just wanted you to think
about it later



Courts Shoot Down Law Making Florida’s Poor Pee in a Cup to Receive Benefits

Rick Scott fails to get his way in costly and discriminatory practice.

From Daily Kos

(February 28, 2013) A federal appeals court has upheld a district judge’s October 2011 injunction suspending Florida’s law forcing welfare applicants to take drug tests to qualify for aid. The judges didn’t mince their words in rejecting the law:

“The evidence in this record does not suggest that the population of TANF recipients engages in illegal drug use or that they misappropriate government funds for drugs at the expense of their own and their children’s basic subsistence,” the three-judge panel wrote. “The State has presented no evidence that simply because an applicant for TANF benefits is having financial problems, he is also drug addicted or prone to fraudulent and neglectful behavior.”

In fact, showing just how unreasonable this search and seizure is, during the four months the law was in effect, it cost Florida more than \$45,000, because so few welfare applicants failed drug tests that the cost of the tests was more than the savings from denying benefits. Nonetheless, Gov. Rick Scott called the ruling “disturbing,” because “Welfare is taxpayer money to help people looking for jobs who have children. Drug use by anyone with children looking for a job is totally destructive. This is fundamentally about protecting the wellbeing of Florida families.” No, Gov. Scott, it’s about targeting poor people. As the courts have found.

Nonetheless, several other states have been pushing similar laws targeting welfare applicants and applicants for unemployment insurance—just changing them slightly to try to avoid the Florida law’s fate in the courts. That law’s saga isn’t done, either. Scott says the state will appeal the latest decision to the Supreme Court.

A Student at ***** School wants an explanation

By Deja Carr

“They told me you were tough” Mr. Angelou adjusted his tie and rested his backbone along the miniature flagpole bolted to his floor. “They told me you were fair.” I snarled and rolled my head back down from the ceiling. I transferred here to ***** High School school on a full scholarship, backpack tattered and dictionaries falling out of my arms, hitting the edge of the hallway with broken yellow fragments of nails. The principle sat me down yesterday on the first day of school in her office. She had that “don’t touch anything” glare and told me if I fixed up my attitude and learned how to smile wide enough to earn a friend, I might do well. She said I am easily the most talented student at Math and innovative in English and advanced in science. What the charitable school board never told me was that I’d be squished into a palace of 20 dollar pens and manicured textbooks. I imagine the send a letter home to the shelter and my mom laughing and saying “It says they reached their yearly capacity of melanin.” If there is a more germanic word for mad, this would be the time to remember it. Though i can’t seem to.

Mr. Angelou lowered his glasses and skimmed his crumped light finger along the seams of a neatly typed sheet of paper which housed my writing “No, Maya you cannot use sentences like these, too vague. Too soft, too sad. Where is your ending, why is your paper so long? Where is your dialogue. If you people had any sense of artistry and any sliver of respect you would know how to write a-” “nononono” I cut him off like a debate of angry bearded men standing on the border of their countries, “Last time someone like you peopled me, I shoved a spanish-english dictionary in their hands, and circled all the words I would have rather they said. Plus I punched them in the chest.” “Well I’m sorry, He refuted, but this is not adequate. I will certainly not tolerate work like this. For God sakes, there is no Title, Maya,” He snapped. I chimed in. “It doesn’t need a title. In fact, the title is Untitled!” I pointed to the italic on the upper left corner. Now furious, I bolted backwards, “Why won’t you accept that we are not all writing with a rubric stuck to our notebooks. There is no polite way to say this, Mr. Angelou but I

haven’t known you for more than 3 days and already I can begin to describe what your nose hair looks like. You may be 5’2 but your nose is always pressed upward. Haven’t you noticed!? I’m sure you can smell lots of dandruff.” I wished I had written that down. He folded his arms in an unimpressed manner. “I will not stand here and be ridiculed. You have no respect for grammar, you haven’t any real scholarly purpose, you are some Bukowski writing, Poetic License wearing young woman who’s gotten catapulted out of her neighborHOOD into the likes of my classroom. A classroom that you should be thankful you are in. I am your teacher, therefore this is your final grade, therefore you are shit out of luck. If you thought you could Swagger in, with your flared jeans and your taste for this freedom poetry, gypsy nonsense than they should put you back in that gymnasium of a public school and call it a day” I slithered towards his desk. “Doesn’t your wife work at that-” “Save it.” he pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose. Feeling slightly ambushed, slightly targeted by a smart “you people” The sweat started to run down his chin. “I have a degree in this, Maya. A degree.”

By the sheer, veil of surprise, I couldn’t help myself from letting the steam pour “You need some degree, Mr. Angelou! You smell like...fear. I’m just trying to ask you to reconsider this grade, that is all. That is all I am here for.”

“I am afraid I cannot do that.” “Grades are final, grades are fair, don’t you see the poster up there? You must be kidding if you think this counts as a homework grade. I am afraid not. This is anything but a proper piece of writing. This is...I’m not even sure what this is.”

Mr. Angelou flung his canvas bag over his lanky shoulder and escorted himself out of his door. “Wait!” I gestured downward with my index and stepped on an imaginary pile of dung. “You forgot your dignity.”I spat out. “He exited, leaving my paper sleeping on his desk, like a puddle of water that was seemingly contaminating everyone.

“Pure hell!” I collapsed in the desk closest to his with a sigh. I knew I had lost. After All, is a D- really fair when on the first day of school the prompt clearly just reads “Tell me about yourself.”



Taking it to the Voters: the Massachusetts Budget for All Referendum

by Claire Gosselin

Over the past year, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Greater Boston Branch joined a diverse coalition of community, peace, housing, labor and faith groups on the Budget for All (B4A) state referendum. The slogan “Stop the Cuts – Invest in Jobs – Tax the 1% – End the Wars” resonated with many in the state. We gathered over 25,000 signatures, qualifying for the ballot in 8 senate and 24 representative districts. Approximately a million Massachusetts voters -1/3 of the state’s expected 3 million voters in a presidential election year – had the question on their ballots. It passed in all 91 communities by an average of 3 to 1 – including districts where Scott Brown topped winner Elizabeth Warren in the U.S. Senate race.

Budget for All and the power of collaboration

Our branch has long worked in coalitions, primarily with peace and women’s organizations. The B4A referendum effort connected us to a broader spectrum: diverse community, housing, labor and faith groups. An activist with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) introduced the concept to a meeting of the statewide network “Fund our Communities not War” (focnw) in which WILPF participates. A committee took on refining the text, planning the work and naming the campaign. While some questioned the efficacy of work on a nonbinding referendum, many jumped at the opportunity – and the campaign took off. In the end, 80 organizations across the state endorsed the campaign. In Boston, Black, Latin and Chinese grassroots and housing activists worked where there was strong support for the issues; this was key to qualifying the referendum citywide. Canvassers registered many new voters and emphasized the importance of political participation. Peace movement and Occupy groups took it to the suburbs and small towns, with peace and Green-Rainbow party activists working in Western Mass.

The referendum provided a timely opportunity during a presidential election cycle to engage in discussion on these crucial matters with people we don’t often reach. Many were thankful to share their concerns and for the opportunity to vote on the question. It challenged the mainstream focus on the deficit and opened a space to send a message to all levels of government.

WILPF’s participation

WILPF members were active throughout the campaign: collecting signatures in Boston, Cambridge, Newton and Waltham, distributing literature, and in the campaign endorsement and follow-up work with state legislators. Pauline Solomon and Laurie Taymor-Berry attended coalition meetings, keeping us informed and motivated. Laurie was active in state house work and in representing a sister organization, Survivors, Inc., whose efforts include welfare office organizing, CORI reform, Human Rights Cities, immigrants rights and more.

B4A addressed key components of WILPFs program: invest in human needs, funding good and green jobs, end the Afghanistan war and cut military spending, and increase taxes on the 1%. These are all important to women, particularly single parents and low-income women, who are hard hit by cuts to social supports, the effects of militarism and violence and thus have a stake in strengthening

services for the common good and opposing war. These points and other specifics of the impact on women were lacking in informational and analytical materials from the campaign. It is a challenge that we as WILPF and activist sisters would do well to address in our future collaborations.

Activists and staff support

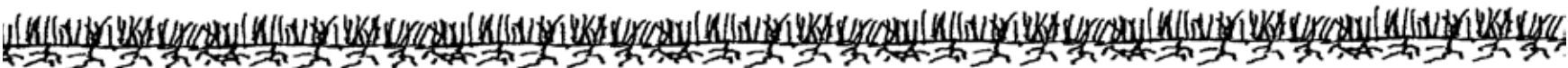
The B4A benefited from the involvement of respected activists along with some staff support by Mass Peace Action, AFSC, and Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants. The bulk of the work was done by skilled activists on a volunteer basis, whose role was essential to the success of the campaign. Staff support was crucial in maintaining

...continued on page 11

The rain keeps coming down
The clouds keep moving around
I hear the sound of thunder
It reminds me of the war
When Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese soldiers
Shot at each other, never stopping
Killing inocent people and the farmers
Homes and Schools have been destroyed
Thousands of inocent people have been murdered
Millions of people have been made homeless
No food to eat or water to drink
People getting killed by bullets and starvation
No help or back up from the United Nations
Why do we bring war to the world?
I have lost a few of my love ones
This I'm talking about the war
My aunt, uncle, father and sister
And other families that never end
How many of them lost their loved ones in the war
Many children live without a father and mother
We should know that since WWI
Many children live without parents
Now we see war again in Israel and Palestine
Most of the children are getting killed
Some are killed by nature
A lot them are killed from the war
Look- Libya has a civil war that is different
Fighting for peace and human rights
Stopping hungry leaders greedy for power
For so many long years never stepping down
Some get benefits from the war
Like billionaires and big Corporations
They built weapons and Missiles
Killing innocent people and farmers
Also soldiers from each side
Look at the Afghanistan war that never ends
Thousands of American solders die each year
Fighting for peace and for Democracy
For all Afghanistan people in the country

War

By Kork Ok



Why I Voted for Obama

By Mary Ann Martorana

I am not a republican or a democrat. I am a Human Being first and an American second. If anyone wants to label me, they might most closely identify me with many of the principles and ideas of Anarchy. Emma Goldman has been one of my heroes for years. However, I have long believed that blind devotion to and faith in any ideology is very dangerous. We have free will and the ability to learn and to think things out for a reason.

We also are able to look back on history and hopefully learn from the mistakes of the past. Never has so much information been available to so many.

In agonizing over what I was going to do with my right to vote, I took many issues into consideration. Almost half of the American people can now be considered to be living in poverty or near poverty. The main or sole income of the vast majority of seniors is social security and the source of medical care is Medicare. Many like me lost most of their retirement savings in the stock market crash and are now relying on help from government programs like Extra Help with Medicare and housing assistance for survival. Disabled citizens and young children are in similar circumstances. These programs, along with food stamps are slated for severe reduction or elimination in a Romney administration. If the able bodied jobless are not marching in the streets by the tens of thousands, what makes anyone think rendering the old, the sick and the very young hungry and homeless will spur the masses to action? The Right Wing in this country has made these vulnerable people into scapegoats; they are referred to as the “hopeless 47% who will not take responsibility for their lives” according to candidate Romney and termed “useless eaters” by his callous running mate Paul Ryan.

In my humble opinion I do not see Americans ready to march for change and reform of the plutocracy in the massive numbers needed. Many are still in the daze of hope that they can achieve the “American Dream” and have swallowed the Right Wing bait, hook line and sinker. In the 1930’s, massive movements from the Left forced Roosevelt to create the New Deal programs like social security. He did not do this out of kindness or caring, but out of the fear of a massive revolution. Without a mass movement, no change is possible, but there can be plenty of death and suffering as they pick us off one by one. We must quietly educate the masses of people to the reality of their situation and to the long history of the struggle of the working class. There is no real Middle Class as such; it is simply comprised of workers who have achieved a decent standard of living all Americans should be able to enjoy through the constant struggle of the working class.

We all need to understand that except for the small minority of plutocrats, we Americans are all part of the working class and we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Obama may not be able to solve the problems of a corrupt system but Romney and his right wing backers would cause many of us to starve and be homeless immediately, including seniors, the disabled and small children. Not only am I not ready to sacrifice myself, my neighbors and my baby grandson in hopes that a far right takeover will finally galvanize the indifferent masses to action, I am not prepared to see the wholesale destruction of the working class. Obama is a lame duck president who does not have to worry about getting reelected. I believe there is hope of pushing him just as Roosevelt was pushed if citizens unite in massive numbers. If

we work diligently to educate and unite ourselves, we can be our own best hope.

Remember the Republican party’s promises

1. Repeal Health Care Reform
2. Cut social security
3. Turn Medicare into a voucher program
4. Eliminate the Department of education
5. Eliminate the EPA
6. Eliminate the FDA
7. Cut Medicaid
8. Eliminate Housing subsidies
9. Possibly eliminate the mortgage interest tax deduction
10. Provide a massive tax cut to the wealthiest citizens
11. Run the Keystone XL Pipeline through our best farmland and the Ogallala Reservoir
12. Make abortion illegal under any circumstances, ban most forms of birth control and defund planned parenthood. Also ban in vitro fertilization and essentially remove women’s health care choices.

And much more...

This is why I voted for Barrack Obama with no illusions. Now that he has won, there is still much organizing and educating to do. The poor and working people of America have been pushed backwards for the last 30+ years and it is time for us to push back!

Continued: Massachusetts Budget for All Referendum

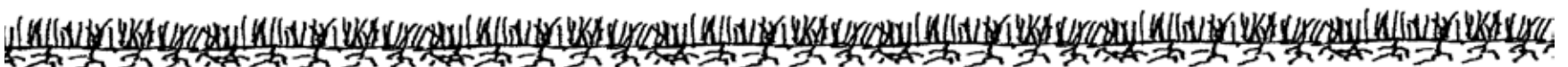
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communication, developing and distributing informational materials, yard signs and poll cards, and coordinating the referendum tasks through all stages. They also formed the consistent core of the task force. WILPF and other organizations contributed and comedian Jimmy Tingle entertained with a fundraiser that provided a generous donation.

It’s not over!

The B4A effort underscored the positive value of working together across movements with a coherent set of connected demands for the benefit of all; the work will continue throughout this legislative session and beyond. We look forward to contributing to these efforts as we call for human security not austerity!

For the full text of the referendum question and other information, link to budget for all website: <http://budget4allmass.org/>



New DHCD Emergency Shelter Regulations Warrant a 51A

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently issued new eligibility requirements for family shelter. As a result:

- Most homeless families are not eligible for emergency shelter unless they first sleep in a place “not meant for human habitation.”
- Roughly 70% of families are denied when they apply for shelter at DHCD.
- Families are forced to sleep in cars, emergency rooms, parks, porches, and other dangerous places.

When one observes abuse or neglect of a child, they report the abuse to the Department of Children and Families (DCF); this is called a 51A Report. Because DHCD’s new eligibility requirements endanger children by forcing families to stay in places “not meant for human habilitation,” DHCD’s new regulations warrant a 51A.

These regulations are dangerous and irresponsible.

This year the Commonwealth also increased its investments in housing programs like Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and the Mass Rental Voucher Program (MR VP).

Stories from affected families

- October, 2012:** A young pregnant mother was denied shelter at DHCD because she was determined not to be homeless enough. She was staying on a recliner in the living room of a friend’s one, bedroom apartment.
- November, 2012:** DHCD turned a mother away because she did not have sufficient paperwork to prove that she is a survivor of violence. They then threatened to place her children into foster care because she had nowhere to stay that same night.
- November, 2012:** After they were denied shelter, a young couple stayed in the parking lot of a convenience store for the night before they were found eligible for shelter.
- November, 2012:** DHCD called State Troopers to escort three families, which were turned away from shelter, out of their office into a snowstorm.
- December, 2012:** A mother stayed in a van with her two young children, while she was repeatedly denied shelter at DHCD.

These increases are commendable but not sufficient to protect all homeless families.

Manufacturing poverty

by Cheri Honkala

This article originally appeared in Counterpunch.

The fiscal cliff is an artificial crisis designed to dismantle the social safety net

On December 10, community leaders all across the country held vigils and rallies outside Congressional offices to defend the safety net and protest the so-called “fiscal cliff” negotiations in Washington, DC. It was part of a coordinated national campaign on International Human Rights Day, the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among other provisions, the Declaration proclaims the inalienable human right to jobs, housing, health care, education, and social security.

The “fiscal cliff” is an artificial crisis created by Congress as a ploy to dismantle the safety net programs the American people have built up and relied on for generations. In their own words, corporations want to “use the fiscal cliff as an opportunity” to push for tax cuts for themselves and benefit cuts for the rest of us.

Although the “fiscal cliff” is allegedly about the federal budget deficit, many proposals actually under discussion show that it has nothing to do with the deficit whatsoever.

For one, President Obama proposed a so-called “chained CPI” formula that would cut Social Security benefits, especially for the poorest and most elderly. Social Security currently runs a 2.7 trillion dollar surplus, is a separate fund that by law cannot increase the deficit, and in fact has never contributed a penny to the deficit in its entire 77-year history.

Another proposal is a \$134 billion corporate “tax repatriation holiday”. This would INCREASE the deficit and proves that the “fiscal cliff” is really designed just to raise corporate profit even if it means plunging millions of Americans into poverty.

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and affordable housing

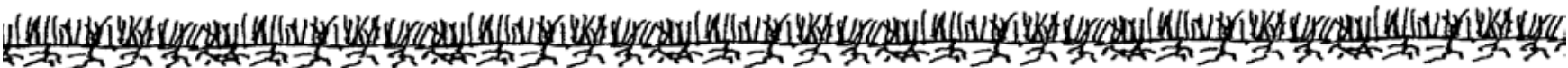
have been and are now fully funded and paid for through our payroll and income taxes, and are supported by an overwhelming super-majority of voters. They are the property of the American people and the inheritance we have prepared for our children and grandchildren. A “grand bargain” or any other kind of compromise that in any way diminishes or weakens these programs in order to enrich corporations is totally unacceptable.

The idea that America has become so impoverished that it can no longer afford the most elementary necessities of its people is patently absurd. As a nation we are richer and more productive than ever. Despite declining industrial employment, our manufacturing OUTPUT is higher now than it has ever been, thanks to the technological revolution. The attacks on the safety net are deliberate efforts to artificially introduce poverty in the midst of plenty.

The solution to the deficit is not difficult: it is to make banks and corporations pay their taxes. In the 1940s, corporations paid 50% more taxes than individuals. Today, they pay 75% LESS than individuals. There is no shortage of money. Corporations continue to reap record profits year after year, but they are paying fewer taxes.

Jill Stein and the I have a plan that addresses the deficit, and more importantly the unemployment epidemic and the looming climate crisis. It is called the Green New Deal that would create millions of jobs providing human services and building sustainable infrastructure. What we have in America today is not a deficit problem at all but a human rights problem. The time has come for us to reject the poverty agenda of the “fiscal cliff” promoted today by both Republicans and Democrats. The time has come to provide a job, housing, health care, and education to every American.

Cheri Honkala was the Green Party candidate for vice president of the United States. She is co-founder of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KW RU) and co-founder and National Coordinator of the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

We went into our archives to snip some photos from the first 4 issues of Survival News: June, 1987 - Spring, 1989



Teresa Kech / Photo by Dottie Stevens



Roberta Praeger at home in Cambridge



Phyllis Mandiville at her home in Jamaica Plain

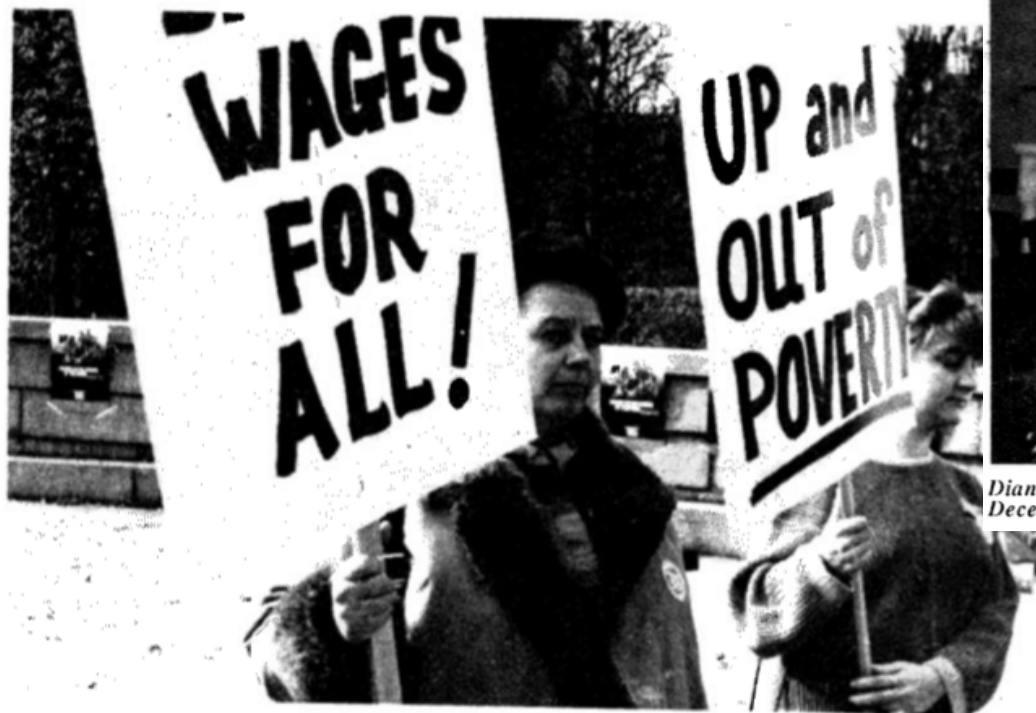
SURVIVAL NEWS hot off the press delivered by unmasked author Claire Cummings



The Statehouse 20 at a press conference outside the Governor's office after their trial January 30. Left to right: Carol Livingston, Mary Moore, Chris Folsom (support person), Dottie Stevens, Kelly Ellsworth, Karen Rock, Grace Ross, Laura Walker, Jeanne Dever. Not shown: Bill Regan, Elizabeth Claessett, Diana Moon.



SURVIVAL NEWS Board members. Left to right: Diane Dujon, Eric (a visitor), Joanne Drake, Diana Moon, Elizabeth Robson, Claire Cummings, Oretta Cohen, Dottie Stevens.



Dorothy Stevens, left, President of the Coalition for Basic Human Needs, at the Boston Justice for All Speak-Out on the State House Steps November 1/



Diana Moon testifies at the Hearings on Children in Poverty at the Old South Church December 8

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER



Boston observes 64th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey provided the keynote speech, during a reception commemorating the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on December 10, 2012 at Boston City Hall.

The UDHR was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 in Paris. It was drafted by representatives of different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, and instituted common fundamental human rights to be universally protected for all peoples of all nations.

Speaking to a group of longtime, human rights activists, Councillor Yancey praised the audience, which included housing activist Michael Kane, community activist Mel King, and peace activist Dottie Stevens, for their life-long struggles fighting to protect the rights of others.

"I just don't think we should ever relax when it comes to fighting for human rights, even if you find yourself at a lonely place and it means going against the popular choice," he said.

Activist Mel King said he was disheartened after seeing the movie, Red Tails, which was inspired by the Tuskegee Airmen, an all African-American World War II pursuit squadron whose awards and decorations for valor and performance include 3 Distinguished Unit Citations, at least 1 Silver Star, an estimated 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals, and 8 Purple Hearts.

King said he was saddened by the exhilaration exhibited because Black men were able to carry out dehumanizing work. "We were pretty much exhilarated by the fact that they could do it. We saw Black men lifted as being able to do dehumanizing work, he said.

"That's not the kind of human rights and human relations we need to be talking about," he added, citing other more important



Councillor Charles C. Yancey delivers keynote speech during a Boston City Hall reception observing the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 2012.

issues such as housing, employment, healthcare and education. King also said the technology used to create weapons of mass destruction should be replaced by technology of the heart. "We need to develop a relationship amongst all of us based on love and respect for our humanity," he said.

King, along with several other activists, took turns reciting all 30 articles of the UDHR.

The UDHR represents 30 fundamental rights that form the basis for a democratic society. Articles include Right to Equality, Freedom from Discrimination, Freedom from Slavery, Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment, Right to Fair Public Housing, and Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections.

Other important UDHR articles include Right to Education, Right to Adequate Living Standard, Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile, and Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association.

The UDHR sets down the basic principles of the human rights movement and has enabled significant progress in human rights, inspiring international human rights standards, laws and institutions that have improved the lives of many around the world.

The reception was sponsored by Human Rights City Boston and Dottie Stevens, who was presented with a resolution proclaiming December 10, 2012 as Human Rights City Boston and Beyond Day in the City of Boston.

Anniversary of UDHR in Boston

By Beatrice Bell

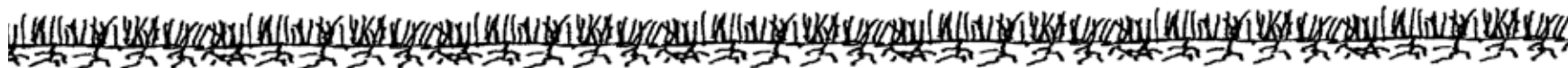
This year Boston celebrated being a Human Rights City on December 10, 2012. Human Rights City Boston & Beyond, Survivors Inc. / Survival Newspaper, Greater Boston Green Rainbow Party and Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants were just a few organizations and agencies that joined City Councilmen Charles Yancey at City Hall Boston to recognize the 64th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being signed. This celebration started in the Curley Meeting Room at noon with Theodore Chelmos of Human Rights City Boston & Beyond and Chaun Renaud also from Human Rights City Boston & Beyond who spoke to the crowd of about 40 individuals who represented a variety of organizations and also supported the Universal Declaration of Human Rights throughout the past years.

During this event three individuals came forward to speak, Mel King of the Green Rainbow party / Human Rights City Boston & Beyond commented how he started advocating on the cause

for Human Rights standing beside back then Councilman Charles Yancey and Michael Kane from Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants. Each speaker spoke of how even though they each came from different organizations they joined forces together and saw how powerful uniting is when developing strength in getting a message across.

Another speaker who presented that day was Dottie Stevens of Survivors Inc. and Mass Welfare Rights Union. Dottie also brought her stories on the struggles that she and several other women who started Survivors Inc. / Survival Newspaper have experienced for over the last 30 years. They were fighting for woman's rights when women were still not being seen for their true value while staying at home being caretakers for their families. Dottie started this campaign after hearing Shula Koenig founder of International Human Rights Cities speak at the Idea's and Action Conference at Old South Church in 2008, and brought it forward while working at

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Donate to Survivors Inc. by visiting www.survivorsinc.org

“Those People”

by Julia Dinsmore

My name is not “Those People”.
I am a loving woman, a mother in pain,
Giving birth to the future, where my babies Have the same chance
to thrive as anyone.

My name is not “Inadequate”.
I did not make my husband leave us -
He chose to, and chooses not to pay child support.
Truth is though; there isn’t a job base
For all fathers to support their families.
While society turns its head, my children pay the price.

My name is not “Problem and Case to Be Managed”.
I am a capable human being and citizen, not just a client.
The social service system can never replace
the compassion and concern of loving grandparents, aunts,
uncles, fathers, cousins, community -
all the bonded people who need to be But are not present to bring
children forward to their potential.

My name is not “Lazy, Dependent Welfare Mother”.
If the unwaged work of parenting,
homemaking and community building was factored
into the gross domestic product, My work would have untold
value. And why is it that mothers whose Husbands support
them to stay home and raise children Are glorified? And why
they don’t get called lazy or dependent?

My name is not “Ignorant, Dumb or Uneducated”.
I got my PhD from the university of life, school of hard everything, I
live with an income of \$621 with \$169 in food stamps for three kids.
Rent is \$585...That leaves \$36 a month to live on.
I am such a genius at surviving,
I could balance the state budget in an hour.
Never mind that there’s a lack of living-wage jobs.
Never mind that it’s impossible to be the sole emotional, social,
Spiritual, and economic support to a family.
Never mind that parents are losing their children
to gangs, drugs, stealing, prostitution, the poverty industry,
social workers, kidnapping, the streets, the predator.
Forget about putting money into schools...
just build more prisons!

My name is not “Lay Down and Die Quietly”.
My love is powerful, and the urge to keep my children alive will
never stop.
All children need homes and people who love them.
All children need safety
And the chance to be the people they were born to be.
The wind will stop before I allow my sons to become a statistic.
Before you give in to the urge to blame me,
the blames that lets us go blind and unknowing
into the isolation that disconnects
your humanity from mine,
Take another look. Don’t go away.
For I am not the problem, but the solution.
And...my name is not “Those People”.



Diana Moon outside the Boston Municipal court, after the Statehouse 20 trial

Dottie Stevens



Julia Wood and her daughter Hannah Wood at the Nov. 22 demonstration. Fred King, sound man, in background

Future of Section 8 continued from page 14...

UMass/ Boston, with other colleagues from the College of Public and Community Service Program. This program allowed individuals to expand their interest and broaden their awareness of the needs in each of their communities even though their demographics were different but their stories and struggles were similar.
As each of the 30 articles of the declaration was being read individually, many in the room was remembering the times they were experiencing the violations against themselves. One thing that is clear the fight to have a safe, secure environment with clean water along with an education was high on each individuals priorities back then and now. The need for this is still being seen today in Boston and beyond this city.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a powerful document that is a guideline for things we all hold dear. All 30 Articles detail the basic needs of any human being but implementing them is harder for it is only a piece of paper. Each organization joined together in support of Boston, MA becoming a role model for other cities to follow if they want to see how Human rights can be recognized by all. The support for this has been in Boston for years in each of Boston residents it is time for us to stand as one giving the example that each individual is valuable and priceless no matter whom you are or where you live. So this day marked the dreams of individuals from both the past and the present in hopes that we will stand as one in harmony in not too long of a time in the future.



SURVIVAL TIPS

Greater Boston Legal Services can help you get benefits

If you are having trouble getting the benefits to which you are entitled, contact Greater Boston Legal Services at (617) 371-1234. They can give you advice or representation to deal with the Department of Transitional Assistance (welfare) or a Housing Authority. GBLS provides either a bilingual advocate or uses interpreters to communicate with non-English-speaking clients. If you don't live in the Boston area, they can refer you to legal services in your area.

You can also get legal advice on line at MassLegalHelp, www.masslegalhelp.org.

Food Programs

Project Bread can give you information about food stamps, and can tell you what food pantries and food kitchens are near you, and tell you food stamp outreach locations. They have translators in several languages. Call their FoodSource Hotline, 1-800-645-8333; TTY: 1-800-377-1292.

Everyone has the right to apply for Food Stamps (now called SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) at their local DTA office, on the Internet, by mailing in an application, or at other food stamp outreach locations. Call the DTA at 1-800-249-2007 to find your local DTA office. You can also call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 for other food stamp locations in your area. **You have the right to sign a paper application the same day you go into a DTA local office or sign an online application electronically.**

You can also apply online by going to www.state.ma.us/dta and clicking on "Welcome to the Virtual Gateway," then click on "Apply" for the on-line application, or you can print out a paper application off the DTA website. If you do not want to apply on line or do not have access to the Internet, you can ask DTA Central to mail out a copy and you can mail it back after you fill it out.

You can get expedited (fast) food stamps if you have little or no income and assets, or if your shelter costs are higher than your income and money in the bank. This means that you should receive the benefits on an EBT card within 7 days of when DTA receives a signed application and screens you for expedited benefits. It is sometimes best to go in person if you need food stamps fast. DTA will ask for proof of who you are (your identity) and will ask you about your income, money in the bank, and expenses, to see if you qualify. You do not need a photo ID or birth certificate. If you do not have any proof of identity but you know your SSN, DTA can check your identity through your SSN and date of birth.

If you are not eligible for expedited food stamps, you can still get food stamps within 30 days of when you apply, if you meet the eligibility rules. You will need to be interviewed—either over the phone or in person—and provide proofs of your income, your address, and your immigration status (if you are not a U.S. citizen). You can self-declare your shelter costs and child care expenses. You can provide proof of your address by a letter addressed to you, an I.D., or government letter. You should receive a letter in the mail

after you apply that tells you when your interview is scheduled and the proofs you will need. Unless you need expedited food stamps, DTA does not count assets in deciding if you are eligible for benefits.

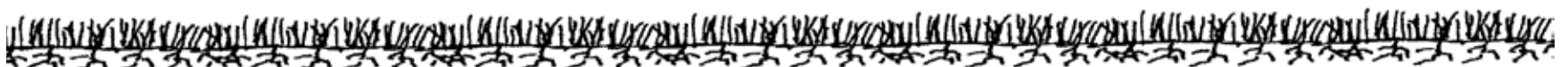
Be sure to tell DTA if you pay for childcare or before/after school fees, or if you pay for the care of a disabled adult so that you can work or go to school yourself. You can also claim the costs of travel (public transportation or a car) to and from childcare, after school programs, etc., at the federal mileage rate of 55 cents per mile. You can self-declare your child care costs. **Claiming child care expenses can increase your food stamps.**

If anyone in your household is severely disabled or age 60 or older, they can also claim the cost of any out-of-pocket medical expenses to increase food stamps. Medical expenses that can be claimed include transportation to doctor appointments and pharmacies to pick up medication (at 55 cents per mile). It also includes Medicaid co-payments, Medicare premiums, over-the-counter health care supplies such as aspirin, hearing aid batteries, eye glasses, skin ointments, incontinence supplies, or any other medical supplies recommended by a provider. It can also include alternative therapy costs not covered by MassHealth or Medicare (chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, herbal remedies). You can also claim and prove the cost for service animals. You will need to provide proofs of your medical expenses, and a list of medical facilities you visit to claim transportation, including veterinary bills and food supplies. If an elder (60+) or disabled household member has more than \$35/month in medical related expenses, DTA will allow a standard \$90 deduction in calculating your net income. If you pay even higher out-of-pocket costs each month, the deduction can be higher. **Claiming medical expenses can increase your food stamp benefits.**

College students may also qualify for food stamps if they are low-income and meet any of the following: a) the student gets any amount of federal or state work study, b) works an average of 20 hours a week, c) has children under age 12 or gets TAFDC, d) is disabled, e) is over age 49 or under 18, f) is enrolled in school through an Employment and Training Program or the Division of Unemployment. In addition, any students enrolled in community college programs may also qualify for food stamps if they are enrolled in a career or technical education major or certificate program, or if the college thinks their course of study will lead to employment. DTA has a form for community colleges to sign to verify the course of study of these students. Students or other young adults under age 22 who live at home with parents must be part of the parent's SNAP benefits.

If you are denied food stamps or disagree with the amount of your benefits, you have the right to question and challenge any decisions made by DTA that you disagree with. There is information on line about how to appeal a denial of benefits: www.masslegalhelp.org. You can also contact the Legal Services office in your area for advice and legal representation.

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SURVIVAL TIPS

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Fair Foods

Fair Foods transports daily truckloads of grocery-quality fresh surplus food from industry to low-income communities in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Bring your own bags for the food, which includes fruits and vegetables, to their Two-Dollar-A-Bag site. They do not require identification or income verification. They provide food to anyone who needs it, because there is more than enough to go around. Beyond keeping people from going hungry, Fair Foods provides the building blocks of a healthy life: fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables fifty-two weeks per year. Their headquarters in Boston are in Dorchester, telephone 617-288-6185. Their web site is www.fairfoods.org, which lists sites in the Boston area. In addition to the sites listed on their web site, there is a site called **AMARKET** at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Seaver Street in Roxbury. They are open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community Servings is a not-for-profit food and nutrition program providing services throughout Massachusetts to individuals and families living with critical and chronic illnesses. They give their clients, their dependent families, and caregivers appealing, nutritious meals, and send the message to those in greatest need that someone cares. Their goals are to help our clients maintain their health and dignity and preserve the integrity of their families through free, culturally appropriate, home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and other community programs. Call 617-522-7777; fax: 617-522-7770; Email: info@servings.org.

Fuel Assistance for the winter months

Low-Income people can get help in paying for fuel. In Boston, Brookline and Newton, **ABCD** administers the federal fuel assistance program. Phone 617-357-6012, ext. 11. Assistance is for any form of heat — oil, gas, electric, wood, or kerosene. Help is given to those whose heat is included in the rent in non-subsidized housing. People with housing subsidies can get help if they pay for heat. Sign-up period is November 1 to April 30. Eligibility level is 60 percent of the medium income in Massachusetts — \$31,271 for a family of 1; \$40,893 for 2; \$50,515 for 3; \$60,137 for 4. For more details, see <http://www.bostonabcd.org/fuel-assistance-liheap.aspx>

Other benefits for people eligible for fuel assistance are weatherization (insulating your house against the cold), electrical audits, heating system repair/replacement. Low-income households applying for Fuel Assistance may also qualify for a Free Energy Audit via the associated, Weatherization program, without having to apply separately.

If you live outside of Boston, Brookline, and Newton, call the Department of Housing and Community Development Heat Line at

1-800-632-8175 and enter your zip code to find out the agency near you.

The Good Neighbor Energy Fund has provided energy assistance to hundreds-of-thousands of residents in temporary crisis who are struggling to pay their energy bills. It is a cooperative effort between the participating energy companies in Massachusetts, The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, and residents of the Commonwealth. The Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible to receive federal or state energy assistance. This year's Fund disbursement is \$350 per eligible household per year.

To qualify for assistance from the Fund, an applicant's gross household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. For example, a household size of 1 would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$31,271 and \$41,695 to qualify. A household of 2 would need to have a yearly income of between \$40,893 and \$54,524 to qualify. A household of 3 would need to have a yearly income of between \$50,515 and \$67,353 to qualify. A household of 4 would need to have a yearly income of between \$60,137 and \$80,182 to qualify. To apply, please visit one of the 36 local Salvation Army offices throughout the state. For more information, call: 1-800-334-3047 if in the Eastern part have Massachusetts (serving area codes 508, 617, 781 and 978) or 1-800-262-1320 if in the Western part of the state (serving area code 413); or visit www.magoodneighbor.org.



Karen Rock at Nov. 22 demonstration 1988

Mass Energy Consumers Alliance saves money on oil

You can save \$100 to \$300 on your heating oil by joining the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance for **\$20, \$10** for people on a fixed income, senior citizens, or retirees. You need to provide a letter of approval from the fuel assistance agency and send it with your application. It is free for anyone who has fuel assistance.

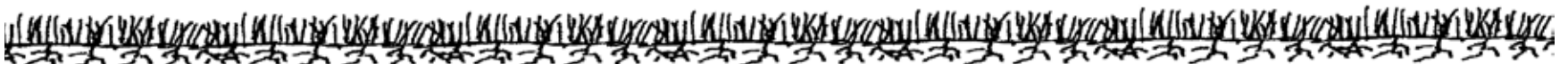
Members save from 10 to 30 cents a gallon off of the Massachusetts state average. Reliable full-service dealers will deliver your oil and service your system. Call them at 617-524-3950 or 1-800-287-3950 for more information, in English or Spanish. Their Web site is www.massenergy.org. They are at 284 Amory Street, Boston, MA 02130.

Help with electric and gas bills

Discounted Gas and Electric Rates and Budget Plans

Massachusetts gas and electric utilities must offer a Low Income Discount Rate. The only municipal-run utility company that offers discount rates on gas is Belmont Municipal. Most families receiving Fuel Assistance should be enrolled automatically. Others who qualify should obtain an application from the utility and send it

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SURVIVAL TIPS

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back promptly or simply call the company—the utility should enroll the household right away, and not wait to verify income. For winter 2011/2012, the income limit for eligibility for 1 person is \$31,271; for 2, \$40,893; for 3, \$50,515; for 4, \$60,137.

Anyone can lower high winter utility bills with budget plans

Utilities offer level monthly payment plans. They estimate annual usage and divide that amount into 12 equal payments.

Any household can get a free “energy audit,” conducted by their utility company, listing ways to save on energy bills.

Shut-off rights for Any Income Household

No Shut-Off if all adults in the Household are Over 65, unless the state DPU gives permission. Companies rarely request this permission, and most elder families are not shut off. A utility company can, however, place a lien on the homeowner’s home for the amount owed, even if they cannot do gas or electric shut-off.

Avoiding Shut-Offs by Setting Up a Payment Plan

Utilities cannot shut off a customer willing to catch up on overdue payments over four months (1/4 of the amount due each month), while also paying current monthly bills.

Utilities can offer longer payment plans, and some go for over a year. Never agree to a repayment faster than you can afford—this can get you into more trouble. Instead, push the utility for a more reasonable plan, and get help from the DPU Consumer Division, 1-877-886-5066.

Utilities must turn service back on for Fuel Assistance households that are able to pay 25% of back bills. Fuel Assistance monies can help towards this 25%.

Utilities must offer all customers a “reasonable” repayment plan that turns service back on. Again, push for an affordable plan and contact the Consumer Division if the utility doesn’t cooperate.

ABCD provides referral services and advocacy for eligible clients interested in reducing their utility bill arrearage/debt. The major utilities serving ABCD’s geographical area of Boston, Brookline and Newton (National Grid and NStar) now offer arrearage management payment plans. Eligible clients may have their utility debt forgiven between \$1,500 - \$2,000 per year while adhering to a structured payment plan.

National Grid gas clients —call 1-800-233-5325

NStar clients—call 1-866-315-2496.

When a Landlord Doesn’t Pay the Utility

All tenants (regardless of income) have shut-off protections where their landlord is the one paying the utility company. If the landlord stops paying the utility, tenants get 30 days notice of the right to pay a “projected bill” (an estimate of that tenant’s share of the monthly bill). Even if all tenants do not pay this projected bill, the

state DPU, not the utility, decides whether service should be shut off to the building. The DPU considers how much the tenants have paid, weather conditions, whether any tenants are seriously ill, and tenants’ ages. Involve the DPU with the building as soon as possible. If the building is in foreclosure, the person or institution that now owns the building must keep the utilities on.

Four Ways Income-Eligible* Families Can Stop a Gas or Electric Shut Off (or Turn the Gas or Power Back On)

Elderly

No gas or electric shut-off if all adults are age 65 or over. Submit an elderly protection form, which the utility can provide.

Serious Illness

No gas or electric shut-off if anyone in the household (adult or child)

has a serious illness. Any previous shut-off must also be restored. The serious illness can be:

- Physical (such as asthma, or pneumonia)
- Mental (such as depression or bipolar disorder)
- Short-term (such as the flu)
- Long-term (such as cancer).

Send the company a serious illness letter from a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or the local Board of Health, and also submit a financial hardship form.

A phone call from the doctor’s

office should work temporarily, but a letter must be sent later.

Child under the age of 12 months

No gas or electric shut-off if anyone in the household is under 12 months old, and any previous shut-off must also be restored. Show the child’s age with a birth or baptismal certificate, or any other reasonable proof. Also submit a financial hardship form.

Winter moratorium

Gas and electric companies cannot terminate heat-related utility service from November 15 through March 15 (often extended through April). The customer must send a financial hardship form to the company. Households on TAFDC or Fuel Assistance automatically qualify for the moratorium.

*Income eligibility

Eligibility is 60% of the state’s median income: for 1 person, \$31,218; for 2, \$40,824; for 3, \$50,429; for 4, \$60,035; for 5, \$69, 641.

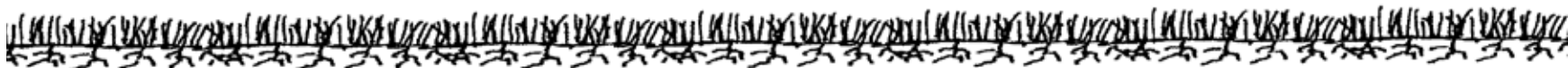
What to Do If You Are NOT Satisfied with the Utility’s Response

The Consumer Division of the State’s Department of Public Utilities (DPY) helps consumers resolve disputes with their utility companies. Call the Consumer Division at 1-877-886-5066 if the utility company makes it difficult to work out a repayment plan or threatens to shut off service where the household is protected from

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Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis and Vijay Prashad at “Love Not Jails.” Photo by Chaun Renaud



SURVIVAL TIPS

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termination.

Help with the telephone bill

You can save on your telephone bill for local service with the telephone company's **Lifeline and Linkup** programs. Anyone on MassHealth, SSI, food stamps, TAFDC, fuel assistance, EAEDC, subsidized housing, or school lunch is eligible. Lifeline reduces monthly telephone bills up to \$10 a month, depending on the state, and Link-Up Link Up provides qualified subscribers with a one-time discount (up to a maximum of \$35) off of the initial installation fee for one traditional, wire line phone service at the primary residence or the activation fee for one wireless phone service. Contact your local telephone company. You may apply for Link-Up assistance when placing an order for telephone service. You may also get a form from the worker at your program. The DTA or the Office of Fuel Assistance needs to verify that you are on one of those programs. Their web site is lifeline.myfamilymobile.com

Free cell phone

SafeLink Wireless is a government-supported program that provides a free cell phone and up to 250 free minutes and 250 free texts per month of service for income-eligible customers. The process to qualify for Lifeline Service depends on the State you live in. In Massachusetts, you may qualify if...

1. You already participate in State or Federal assistance program such as SSI, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Stamps, MassHealth, EAEDC, TAFDC, fuel assistance, or school lunch,

AND

2. No one in your household currently receives Lifeline Service through another phone carrier.

3. You have a valid United States Postal Address. A P.O. Box is not acceptable.

In addition to meeting the guidelines above you will also be required to provide proof of your participation in an assistance program, or proof of your income level. To request an application, call 1-888-898-4888, or go online at www.safelink.com. You can also apply at your public library.

City Life/Vida Urbana is a 38-year-old bilingual, community organization whose mission is to fight for racial, social and economic justice and gender equality by building working class power through direct action, coalition building, education and advocacy. In organizing poor and working class people of diverse race and nationalities, they promote individual empowerment, develop community leaders, and are building a movement to effect systemic change and transform society. Their roots are in promoting tenant rights and preventing housing displacement. In response to the devastating impact of the foreclosure crisis on communities in Boston, they launched a major campaign in 2007, the Post-Foreclosure Eviction Defense campaign to help keep people facing foreclosure in their homes. Victories won by hundreds of organized families have created public and political pressure, which is driving legislative reform and has inspired the emergence of similar campaigns across the region.

In 2011, a grant from the Open Society Foundations' Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative has made it possible for them

to expand this effort beyond Boston. They are now working closely with groups in four other cities and towns within Massachusetts and Rhode Island that have begun to replicate this model. Through regional and national presentations and trainings, CL/VU is extending its impact.

CL/VU maintains its core commitment to movement building and working across issues through staff and members' active participation in numerous peace and justice coalitions.

They are located at 284 Amory St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. If you need their help or if you want to join their organizing, call them at 617-524-3541. Their email is info@clvu.org. Their web site is www.clvu.org. Fax 617-524-3555.

Work requirement for TAFDC recipients

Sometimes DTA puts pressure on workers to get more parents who receive TAFDC to hold down a job or do work activities of 20 to 30 hours per week. If you are being pressured by your welfare worker to do something you are unable to do, such as hold down or search for a job or another activity for some or all of the hours, ask your legal services office for help. You may be eligible to be exempt from the work requirement or time limit, or you may be eligible for a "good cause" exception.

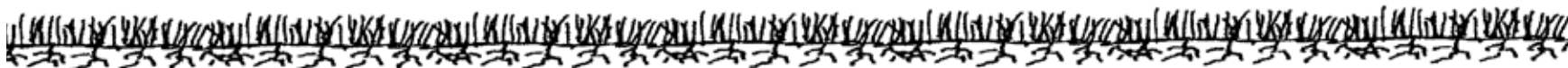
Going to an education or training program counts toward the work requirement for at least twelve months. Most kinds of adult education and job training programs count. College programs, including 4-year college, can also count. (You need to major in something that will lead to a job.) Time spent in education and training when you are exempt from the work requirement does not count against your 12 months. If you need more than 12 months, check with Legal Services. The fact that a program will last more than 12 months is not legal grounds for DTA to refuse to count it for at least 12 months.

For people in shelter, DTA must treat housing search as fully meeting the work requirement, as long as the housing search you do meets the requirements of the Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter rules or, for non-EA shelters, the shelter's rules — no matter how many hours of housing search you do.

DTA is not supposed to lower or stop your benefits under the work requirement or your DTA Employment Development Plan if you have good cause, such as:

- ✓ you don't have suitable child care in place;
- ✓ you don't have affordable and reliable transportation;
- ✓ you need to do housing search because you can't stay where you are currently living
- ✓ even though you didn't find your own activity, DTA hasn't given you a community service site that is suitable for you and that will take you;
- ✓ you are sick, injured, or disabled (this might give you the right to be completely exempt);
- ✓ you have to care for a family member who has an illness or disability (this might give you the right to be completely exempt);
- ✓ you have a family crisis, an emergency or other compelling circumstance beyond your control;

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- ✓ you don't want to stay at or accept a job that: violated minimum wage laws; discriminated on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability; violated health and safety standards; or was available due to a strike or lockout.

Also, DTA is not supposed to lower or stop your benefits without first giving you a chance to talk about whether any good cause reasons apply. If you think DTA made a mistake in lowering or stopping your benefits, quickly file an appeal and contact your local Legal Services Office for help.

ABCD in Boston gives housing counseling for people going through eviction, or housing court. Their Housing Court Advocacy (HCA) program is part of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Department's array of homelessness prevention and stabilization programs. This program helps low and moderate income households living in Boston prevent eviction, maintain their tenancy, and understand their tenant's rights and responsibilities. Their number is 647-348-6347.

- Educating clients on their rights and responsibilities
- Ensuring clients' rights are observed in the courtroom
- Supporting clients during mediation with a landlord or property manager
- Providing clients with external resources to help maintain their tenancy

When a tenant receives a 14- or 30-day Notice to Quit or is summoned to appear in the Boston Housing Court, Housing Court Advocates may assist the tenant during recertification, eviction, and grievance panel hearings. On an individual basis, HCA staff support clients before and during the court process and seek legal assistance when necessary.

Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston is the only comprehensive fair housing organization working to eliminate housing discrimination and promote open communities throughout the region. The FHCGB pursues its mission in Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex, Essex and Plymouth counties through offering a full tool kit of fair housing services: Testing, Case Advocacy, Training, Community Outreach, Policy Advocacy, and Research. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, foundation and corporate donors, and individual supporters, the FHCGB works to break the silence surrounding housing discrimination, to offer recourse to people harmed by discrimination, and educate and inform housing

If you would like to join other people in making improvements in policy for TAFDC, food stamps, emergency assistance (including family shelters), or housing, there are groups working on these issues who would love to have you join them. They are:



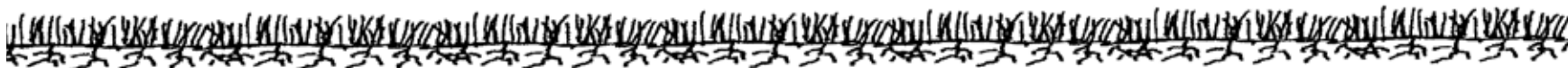
1. the Federal government refused aid to single mothers on welfare.
2. the Commonwealth refused to give provide birth control information. (Photo by Joseph Flack Weiler)

The Food Stamp Coalition works on food stamp (now called SNAP) access barriers and a range of state and federal anti-hunger policy issues. They meet once a month in Boston. Contact Pat Baker at Mass Law Reform Institute, pbaker@mlri.org or at 617-357-0700, ext. 328 for more information.

You may be eligible to receive up to \$5,236 from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the tax refund for working people, if you have two children. You earned this money, so don't let your refund go unclaimed.

- Workers who were raising one child in their home and had income of less than \$36,920 (or \$42,130 for married workers) in 2012 can get an EIC of up to \$3,169.
- Workers who were raising two children in their home and had income of less than \$41,952 (or \$47,162 for married workers) in 2012 can get an EIC of up to \$5,236.
- Workers who were raising three or more children in their home and had income of less than \$45,060 (or \$50,270 for married workers) in 2012 can get an EIC of up to \$5,891.

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- Workers who were not raising children in their home, were between ages 25 and 64 on December 31, 2012, and had income below \$13,980 (or \$19,190 for married workers) can get an EIC up to \$475.

If you would like to get an estimate of how much you might be entitled to get back, go to the EITC web site at www.cbpp.org/eic2012/calculator.

You can get EITC Advance Payments in your paychecks. To get EITC Advance payments, give a W-5 form to your employer. You can get the W-5 from your employer, or by calling the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). If you have a checking account, you can have your EITC refund deposited directly.

Some people pay money to a private tax company like H&R Block to get help in filing their tax form or to get the money right away. Rather than do that, try to get free advice. Keep the money in your pocket, or save it and use it to build a better future for you and your family. ABCD runs 13 tax preparation sites in Boston. To find the tax preparation site nearest you, go to <http://masscashback.ehs.state.ma.us>.

A family's earned income tax credit payments do not count as income in determining eligibility or benefit levels for TAFDC, Medicaid, food stamps, SSI, work experience activities (such as community service), or public housing.

To figure your EITC, use a special worksheet included as part of the EITC instructions in form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ.

Massachusetts workers get an extra state credit worth 15% of their federal credit if they earn under \$49,078. You can order a tax form and get more information by calling 617-887-6367 or 1-800-392-6089. Their web site is www.mass.gov/dor.

The Child Tax Credit: An extra tax break for working families!

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a federal tax credit worth up to \$1,000 in 2012 for each qualifying child under age 17 claimed on the worker's tax return. To be eligible for the CTC refund, a single or married worker must:

- have a qualifying child under age 17;
- have taxable earned income above \$3,000, and
- have either a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Immigrant workers with either type of number may be able to claim the CTC refund.

Eligible families can get up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17 claimed on their tax return.

To get the Child Tax Credit refund, file a federal tax return—Form 1040 or 1040A, but not 1040EZ.

Some families can get the credit even if they owe no income tax. This is called the Additional CTC refund. To find out if you are eligible for this, file form 8812. This form must be attached to the tax return for a family to receive the CTC refund.

Working families can get both the Child Tax Credit refund and the Earned Income Credit. Neither the Earned Income Credit or the Child Tax Credit refund counts as income in determining

eligibility for any federal, state or local benefits such as food stamps, SSI, or child care financed even in part by federal funds.

WHO GIVES HELP?

Where can you go for help with rent, food, money, utilities or fuel assistance when your welfare or SSI money runs out, or when you have been kicked off of welfare because of time limits?

The United Way First Call for Help is a good place to begin looking. They can give you information and a referral. Call them at 211. They are open day and night, seven days a week. They have interpreter services for up to 140 different languages. They are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. The United Way also has a Substance Abuse Help Line, 1-800-327-5050. They can also give information on H1N1 or seasonal flu. They are open 24 hours a day.

Catholic Charities: With 15 sites throughout Greater Boston, Catholic Charities is able to provide a wide range of support, including food pantries, rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, assistance in providing furniture, baby supplies, clothing and other necessities, and seasonal and holiday assistance for families who cannot afford a warm meal at Thanksgiving or gifts for their children at Christmas. For a list of their food pantries, click on www.ccab.org/pantries.html; for a list of their basic needs sites, click on www.ccab.org/basic.html

Local Catholic Charities are as follows: **Dorchester**, 617-506-6600; **El Centro del Cardenal**, 617-542-9292; **Haitian Center**, 617-506-6600; **Laboure Center (South Boston)**, 617-268-9670; **Somerville**, 617-625-1920; **Catholic Charities North**, 781-593-2312; **Merrimack Valley (Lowell)**, 978-452-1421; **Brockton**, 508-587-0815; **Milford**, 508-478-9632.

Salvation Army: Housing and Homeless Services

Group homes, emergency shelters, and transitional living centers provide housing on a temporary basis for varying amounts of time. They:

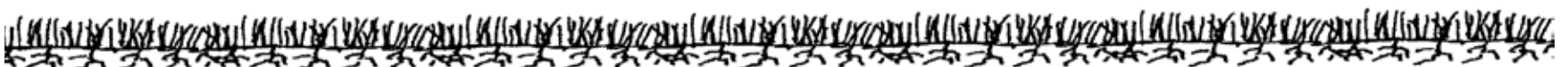
- serve the homeless by providing food and overnight lodging.
- provide educational, counseling and vocational services to homeless and destitute individuals and families for extended periods.
- address long-term specific issues of youth for whom family care is undesirable or unavailable. Education, counseling, health care and specific training seek to meet the needs of such groups as pregnant teens, emancipated minors, and wards of the juvenile court.
- address specific health or societal driven needs of particular populations.

Family service programs help families and needy individuals with emergency food, housing, utility assistance and other temporal needs.

Salvation Army programs vary with local needs. For information on specific programs and locations, contact your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center by doing a zip code search on their website's Location field at www.salvationarmyusa.org

ABCD in Boston gives housing counseling for people going through eviction, or housing court. If Boston residents have a letter

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SURVIVAL TIPS

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of eviction from the landlord or a summons for housing court, the counselor will assess if there are any funding opportunities. They also do mortgage and foreclosure counseling. Their number is 617-348-6347.

Travelers Aid Family Services, 617-542-9482, has a program to provide short-term emergency shelter to Boston families in crisis working in collaboration with the Mayor's Hotline.

There is also a homeless prevention program for Boston families to help pay back rent, if funds are available, and the agency provides shelter and stabilization services for homeless families referred from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Call for eligibility requirements. Workers are available for walk-in service for transportation. Other services are by appointment and phone, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM. Staff bilingual in Spanish translation are available.

Local towns: Some organizations operate on a town-by-town basis. Their numbers can be found in the phone book, or by dialing 411. These include local churches and civic clubs, including: Kiwanis, Elks, Lions, Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Quota, Jaycees, and The Masons.

Help for Veterans

Veterans can get some help at their local Veteran's Services. The federal Department of Veterans Affairs has published a book that lists benefits, Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents. It is available online at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

Housing and homelessness

If you are experiences homelessness or at imminent risk . . .

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in Massachusetts offers services and money to families experiencing homelessness at their Division of Housing Stabilization offices, located at DTA offices. They assess your situation and try to help you work out a plan to avoid or exit homelessness. If you are a pregnant woman or family with children under the age of 21 and need shelter, a worker will help you. If you are an unaccompanied adult, you can apply for a shelter bed directly through a shelter provider. An online list of adult shelter providers can be found online at <http://www.mahomeless.org/get-help/single-adult>.

HomeBASE "Household Assistance"

Household Assistance is part of the HomeBASE program for homeless families with children and pregnant women who have no

place to stay. To get Household Assistance, you need to apply for and be eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter. Household Assistance is up to \$4,000 a year. The money is to help your family move into or keep short-term housing. The \$4,000 can pay expenses for you to move somewhere else, to help you stay with someone you know, or to help you stay where you are now. DHCD will make these payments to a landlord, utility company, or moving company or in the form of payments to your host — not to you.

Household Assistance may not be the right answer for your family. You can still get EA shelter if you need it and your family meets the current eligibility standards for the EA program.

If you go into a shelter, you will get help looking for housing you can afford for a longer time. You may be able to get HomeBASE rental assistance later, but only within the first 32 weeks of being in a shelter.

Are you sure \$4,000 is enough money to keep your family in housing for one full year? If the whole \$4,000 is spent before the end of 12 months and you end up homeless again, you will not be able to get any more help from HomeBASE for the rest of the 12-month period, under current rules.

How will Household Assistance affect the family you are staying with? Your host's landlord must agree that your family can stay before Household Assistance will be approved. You may have to be added to the lease. Your host's rent may go up.

If Household Assistance pays all of your host's rent or utilities, it could be counted as income for your host. Your host may get fewer benefits, such TAFDC, EAEDC, or SSI.

You can file an appeal if you feel you were forced to take or wrongly denied Household Assistance. Contact legal services or someone else you trust for advice or for help with your appeal.

If you have questions about HomeBASE, you can call DCHD's Recipient Services Line: 1-877-418-3308. You can also call the Homeless Family Call-in Line at the Massachusetts Law Reform: 617-357-0700 ext 376 or the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless: 781-595-7570. To find your local legal services program, call the Legal Advocacy & Resource Center: 1-800-342-5297 or go to www.MassLegalHelp.org/find-legal-aid

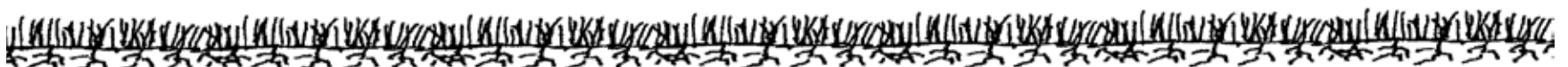
Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Homelessness Prevention Program

If you and your family are at imminent risk of homelessness, you may be eligible for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), a state-funded homelessness prevention program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). For state fiscal year 2013, which began on July 1, 1012, RAFT is funded at \$8.76 million. This means that RAFT is once again a statewide program! The program is targeted to families with children under the age of 21 and/or pregnant women with incomes at or below 50% of area median income, with at least 90% of the funds for families at or

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*The Right to Exist. April 4, 2012. Springfield, MA.
Photo by Dottie Stevens*



SURVIVAL TIPS

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below 30% of area median income. Eligible families may receive up to \$4,000 in a 12-month period to pay for expenses to avoid homelessness or rapidly exit homelessness. In the Boston area, RAFT is administered by metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, 617-425-6700; **The Housing and Consumer Education Center (HCEC)** of Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) at 617-425-6700. If you are a homeowner and would like to talk with their foreclosure counselor, contact Stephen Freeman at 617-425-6761. There are nine Housing Consumer Education Centers in Massachusetts. You can locate them at www.masshousinginfo.org.

The HCEC provides limited financial assistance when available (such as RAFT), and they can help with other types of housing resources and advocacy year-round. More information is on their web site, www.mbhp.org.

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, 781-595-7570, provides information and advocacy, and lobbies for better policies for families, adults, and unaccompanied youth, who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness. In Boston, the Coalition advocates work with community health centers, public schools, and early intervention programs to provide homelessness prevention services. The Coalition also operates a furniture bank for households exiting homelessness into housing. The Mass. Coalition for the Homeless is located at 15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901. Their website is: www.mahomeless.org. They have a lot of information and materials there.

Boston residents who are homeless after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends, can call the Boston Mayor's Hotline at 617-635-4500, for information and referral. During weekday hours, call the Emergency Shelter Commission at 617-635-4507 for information and referral. Families with children and pregnant women can apply for shelter benefits through the Department of Housing and Community Development's Division of Housing Stabilization. In Boston, DHCD has staff in the same building as the DTA office at 2201 Washington Street, Dudley Square, Roxbury, phone 617-989-6100.

Free furniture/household goods

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless runs a furniture bank for families and individuals from across the state who are extremely low-income and for others making the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. The furniture bank also provides blankets and other household goods, when available. Furniture is donated and is in good condition. To apply, you need to be referred by an agency. Call the Donations Assistance Program at 781-595-7570, ext. 11. A staff person loads the furniture on to a truck, but the organization does not provide a truck. They are located at 15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901. Their web site is www.mahomeless.org/programs/furniture-bank

Craigslist online has free furniture and other items. It lists by region. Click on "free stuff."

Health Care

MassHealth

MassHealth is the Massachusetts version of Medicaid. It is a public health insurance program for eligible low and medium-income residents of Massachusetts. People who receive TAFDC, SSI, or EAEDC are automatically eligible for MassHealth, and disabled people are eligible. To find out if you are eligible, call 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997) and request an application, or download the application on their website, MassResources.org. To find a doctor or a dentist, or other health care provider in your area, call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648).

Commonwealth Care

People have different Commonwealth Care plan options depending on how much money they make compared to the poverty level. The Commonwealth Care premiums depend on how much money people make compared to the poverty level.

The application form is called a Medical Benefit Request, or MBR. When you send the application to MassHealth, they will enroll you in the best program you can get, which may be Commonwealth Care. Then, MassHealth will send a notice telling you what program you get. You can get an application at your health center or hospital. Also, you can call the Health Care For All Helpline at 1-800-272-4232 to get help filling out an application over the phone. Or you can call 1-800-792-4355 or e-mail helpmeapply@bmchp.org for FREE help in applying.

The Health Safety Net is a program for Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for health insurance or can't afford to buy it. The Health Safety Net is sometimes called Free Care. The goal of the Safety Net is to make sure that all Massachusetts residents can get health care when they need it, regardless of income.

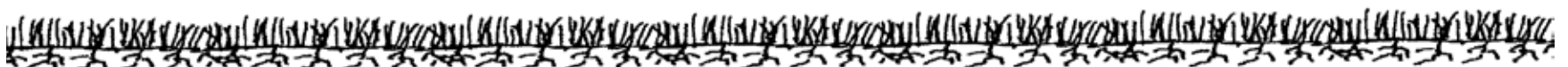
People of any income with large medical bills that they cannot pay are also eligible. Your citizenship or immigration status does not affect your eligibility. For low-income residents, the Health Safety Net (Free Care) pays for medically necessary services at Massachusetts community health centers (CHCs) and hospitals. To be covered, services must be on the MassHealth Standard list of covered services. The Safety Net pays all of the cost, or part of the cost, depending on age and income. The Safety Net also helps families with medical hardships who do not have enough income to pay their medical bills.

Most people must file a MassHealth application to get Health Safety Net (Free Care) benefits. You can file your application at a community health center (CHC) or hospital, or you can send your

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*The Right to Exist. April 4, 2012. Springfield, MA.
Photo by Dottie Stevens*



SURVIVAL TIPS

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application directly to MassHealth. If you are applying for Medical Hardship, you must file a Special Circumstances Application (SPCA) at a CHC or hospital. You can call the Help Desk at 1-877-910-2100 for more information.

MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach is a free, confidential service available to all Massachusetts residents who are seeking information regarding their medications, and may be able to refer them to places that would help them pay for their medication. Whether you are having difficulties affording your medications or want to know what the side effects are to your prescriptions, MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach can help. By calling a toll-free help line at 1-866-633-1617, visiting our walk-in center at 25 Foster Street, Worcester, MA, or accessing our web site (<http://www.massmedline.com>), patients will receive information about their medications, prescription drug coverage, including the Medicare Drug benefit, and assistance with accessing affordable prescription drug programs.

Questions about health care?

Call Health Care For All's helpline at 1-800-272-4232. Health Care for All is a non-profit Massachusetts advocacy agency that promotes affordable and comprehensive health coverage for all groups. Their work combines policy analysis, information referral, personal and legal advocacy, community organizing and public education. They are a phone line only and do not take walk-ins. Their website is: www.hcfama.org

Health care for the homeless

Boston Health Care for the Homeless

program provides health care for men, women, and children in the greater Boston area at clinics, overnight and day shelters, family and domestic violence shelters and Mass General Hospital. They have a Respite Program for homeless individuals who are not sick enough to be in the hospital, but too sick to be on the street or in a shelter. Call 857-654-1000, or visit one of our sites, for more information.

Medical equipment for children

Pass it On gives pediatric medical equipment for disabled children up to age 22, including wheel chairs, standers, gait trainers, and related equipment. They will pick up and drop off items normally within the Route 495 belt. While the equipment is free, they ask for help in paying for transporting the equipment. Call 1-800-267-6768. Their web site is passitonforkids.org.

Help with children's clothing

The Children's Clothing Exchange, a program of Solutions at Work, is at the Roosevelt Towers Housing Complex, 391 Evereteze Way, Cambridge, MA 02141. Phone (617) 576-0039. Open Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 11-3.

You can obtain clothing for newborns through age 14. They have professional clothing for women and men who are entering a job, by appointment and referral. They also have shoes in all sizes. You can exchange clean, ready-to-wear clothing that your children have outgrown. No money is needed. Families in crisis don't need to exchange on their first visit. Free children's books and toys and baby strollers and car seats are available.

They have a large, cheerful play space that kids are welcome to use while their parents browse for items. They also offer free arts and crafts on the second and fourth Saturday of most months from 12:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Children's Clothing Exchange participants are welcome to join at no charge. Others are welcome for a suggested donation of \$10 per child and/or a donation of children's clothing.

Their web site is <http://solutionsatwork.org/our-program/childrens-clothing-exchange>

Free and low-cost legal help

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, 617-495-4408, fax 617-496-2687, provides legal services to low-income people on housing issues (landlord-tenant relationships, public housing, subsidized housing, foreclosure defense); family law (domestic violence, divorce, custody, paternity, domestic child support); government benefits (Social Security, unemployment benefits, Veterans benefits, and welfare), and wage and hour cases (including unpaid or underpaid benefits, and overtime). Their services are free to recipients of TAFDC, EAEDC, and SSI, and other low-income people. They serve Middlesex or Suffolk counties. They are located at 23 Everett St., Cambridge, MA 02138. They are open from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday. Call for an appointment.

The National Lawyer's Guild's Lawyer Referral Service

provides affordable legal assistance to low to middle-income people by matching individuals with attorneys. All phone calls to this service, and up to three referral calls to attorneys are free. They handle disability (including SSI and SSDI), criminal, discrimination, employment, family law, landlord/tenant, immigration, civil rights, civil litigation, personal injury, bankruptcy, real estate, and other areas of law. Fees are sometimes negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Referrals can be placed in English or Spanish, and attorneys are available who speak a wide variety of languages.

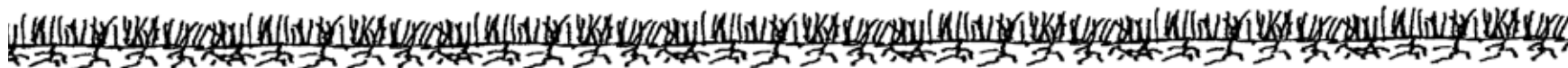
Their hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 1:00. Call 617-227-7008. Referrals can be placed online 24/7. They serve the Massachusetts area. Information on legal issues and contacts for pro-bono legal assistance can be found on their website www.NLGLawyerreferralservice.org

Disability Law Center of Massachusetts, 617-723-8455 or 1-800-872-9992, provides legal advocacy on disability issues to people in Massachusetts who have a wide range of physical, psychiatric,

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The Right to Exist. April 4, 2012. Springfield, MA.



Donate to Survivors Inc. by visiting www.survivorsinc.org

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sensory and cognitive disabilities. DLC serves individuals who experience discrimination, abuse or neglect, or denial of services because of their disability. They handle special education, rights and conditions in facilities, employment, housing, and voting. DLC does not handle general legal problems such as obtaining a divorce, filing for bankruptcy, or trust and estate issues. They are at 11 Beacon St. #925, Boston, MA 02108. Their web site is www.dlc-ma.org.

Help available for immigrants

Greater Boston Legal Services at 617-371-1234 represents immigrants.

The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) provides trainings, advocacy, and information to promote the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees. They involve an active membership of 140 organizations. They do not provide services to individuals, but can refer people to one of their member organizations. Call 617-350-5480.

The Irish International Immigrant Center has supported Irish immigrants since 1989 and has grown into a multiservice center for people from 120 countries helping them find their place in our multicultural society. Promoting civic engagement and facilitating cultural integration, they work in the US and also in Ireland. Advocating for social change, their vision is one of an integrated society in which all people are treated with respect, dignity and enjoy equal opportunities and protections. Their programs include: Wellness and Education Services; Immigration Legal Services; Cross-cultural Programs; ESOL/Citizenship Classes; Learning Exchange Programs; Internship & Volunteer Opportunity. They are located at 100 Franklin St., Lower Level, Boston, MA 02110. Phone 617-542-7654. For more information, visit their website <http://www.iiicenter.org/>

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Office, 617-464-8100, helps refugees, asylees, and Cuban and Haitian parolees (people who have been detained by the U.S. Department of Justice and are now on parole). Their services include: cash assistance, employment assistance, case management, English classes, and social service referrals. They also have ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

Asylees can receive services within the first month after getting asylum status and during that month are eligible for more services such as cash assistance and employment services. They are located at 275 W. Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127.

The Political Asylum/ Immigration Representation Project (PAIR) is a nationally recognized pro bono model that works to secure safety and freedom for asylum-seekers who have fled from persecution throughout the world and to promote the rights of immigrants unjustly detained. PAIR provides hope and a new beginning to asylum-seekers, torture survivors and immigration detainees.

PAIR was formed in 1989, a coalition of legal services agencies, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, and bar associations

responded to meet an emergency need for legal representation of 83 workers, mostly from El Salvador, whom the INS arrested at the Suffolk Downs racetrack in Revere, Massachusetts.

The Asylum Program is the leading program in Massachusetts to recruit, mentor and train attorneys from private law firms to represent without charge low-income asylum-seekers who have fled from persecution throughout the world. The goal of this program is to secure safety for people who have tried to exercise freedoms we take for granted: the right to express opinions, freedom of speech and assembly, or the right to practice a religion.

The Detention Program, launched in 1990, is the only immigration legal services program with negotiated access to all three major ICE detention centers in Massachusetts. Last year, PAIR advised and represented over 1,000 immigration detainees who originally came from throughout the world. PAIR accomplishes this work through staff attorneys, fellows, pro bono attorneys from the AILA New England Chapter and private practices, and five law school immigration clinical programs.

Call for an appointment, 617-742-9296.

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, 617-661-1010, 1 West St., Cambridge, provides services to low-income individuals and families in the Greater Boston area. These include free legal services in the areas of family law and domestic violence, disability benefits, immigration law, and housing/homelessness issues and affordable mental health counseling, with counseling fees assessed on a sliding scale basis. Services are provided by a highly qualified small staff and by over 100 well-trained lawyers, mental health professionals, and other advocates. Call the office for information on specific services.

Help for parents under stress

The Parental Stress Line is a toll-free hotline to give support to parents who are under stress. It is available for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They have parent support groups, which are anonymous and confidential. Call 1-800-632-8188.

Higher Education

TERI College Planning Center can help you find scholarships if you are income eligible, choose a college, complete admission and financial aid applications, get your college admission fee waived, and get advice on paying for college. You can talk with an advisor, use their computers to find scholarships, and look through their resource books — all free of charge.

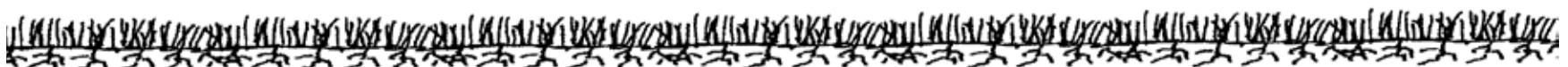
There are 6 Educational Opportunity Centers throughout Massachusetts. Boston and The Boston phone number is 617-536-0200 (in the Concourse level of the Boston Public Library). They are usually open 9-6:30 Monday-Thursday and 9-3:30 Friday and Saturday. For other areas, call the main number at 617-536-0200.

Urban College of Boston (UCB)

UCB is a two-year college that provides inner-city residents who might otherwise never go to college a highly supportive environment that integrates a college education with career preparation and skill development, and both encourages and enables students to transfer to four-year institutions to complete their bachelors degrees. It offers courses in multiple languages, including Spanish and Chinese.

It is located at ABCD (Action for Boston Community

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Development) at 178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111, phone 617-348-6325. Through its connection with ABCD, UCB offers students extensive support services (including day care, referral health services, personal counseling and job placement) that enable them to stay in school and complete their degrees. The college serves as a “feeder system” for students from literacy, GED, adult education, Head Start (parents and staff) and youth programs into higher education. ABCD, in turn, serves as a “feeder system” to UCB, with many ABCD employees studying at the college or providing referrals to it.

The Urban College offers college credit for job-training and staff development programs, creating a direct link between these programs and the world of higher education. The college also provides relevant internship opportunities for students. Urban College is authorized to provide federal Pell Grants to eligible students.

Scholarship help for low-income women

The Patsy Takemoto Mink Fellowship

each year gives scholarships of \$2,000 to assist low-income women to achieve an educational objective. The fellowship is named for the woman who represented her native Hawaii in the U.S. Congress. She fought against welfare reform in Congress. Her daughter Gwendolyn Mink, author of *Welfare's End*, established the fellowship, along with Patsy Mink's husband, to honor her deceased mother. Applications will be accepted beginning Spring 2013. To apply, go to their web site at www.patsyminkfoundation.org/edsupport.html

Education and Training

St. Mary's Women and Children's Center, 617-436-8600, 90 Cushing Avenue, Dorchester, MA, provides job training, computer skills, adult basic education, and GED preparation. Their Women's Learning Center instructs up to 20 students at a time in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and preparation for the General Educational Development (GED) testing series. The program is highly flexible — offering open enrollment, and lessons are tailored to meet students' individual needs.

Project Hope — Free Adult Education, Child Care and Health Care training programs

Project Hope offers a basic adult education to more than 80 low-income women a year. They train 30 low-income women a year for child care careers through the Family Child Care Business Enterprise.

They offer FREE Health Care training programs for entry-level positions with Partners HealthCare, Spaulding Rehabilitation, Brigham and Women's, Mass General Hospital, and Tufts Health Plan. They also offer a free job readiness training (called Project 90) through their collaboration with Project Place. For more information on this, visit their web site at <http://www.prohope.org/openhouse.htm#P90>

Workforce Development & Employer Partnerships

Program Description:

Partners in Career and Workforce Development (PCWD) is a free 8-week employment and training program designed for individuals interested in entry-level employment within one of the Partners hospitals. This is an unpaid training program on Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm which includes 4 weeks of classroom instruction located on the Massachusetts General Campus and a 4 week internship in a basic clerical or support staff position. Graduates receive job search support in Career Club until employment goals are reached. PCWD is a DTA and section 30 approved program. For more information, you can visit the Partners HealthCare website, www.partners.org/careers/default.asp



Laurie Honor

Community Partners in Health

Professions (CPHP) is a 12-week skill building health care training program. Classes meet at Project Hope Monday -Thursday from 9a.m. to 4p.m. and Fridays are dedicated to case management. CPHP graduates have been placed in a variety of settings including: hospitals, health insurance companies, call centers, private practices, clinics, and other office settings. CPHP is a DTA approved program.

Professional Readiness Employment Program (PREP) is a series of workshops aimed at developing the skills and techniques necessary to conduct an effective job search. Classes are administered over a period of four weeks meeting 2 afternoons per week.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Attend an Open House: http://www.prohope.org/openhouse_faq.htm
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Speak, write, and understand English
- Pass assessments in Reading, Language, and Computer
- Have CORI clearance
- Have at least 1 full year of work experience with one employer
- Be able to attend and complete training

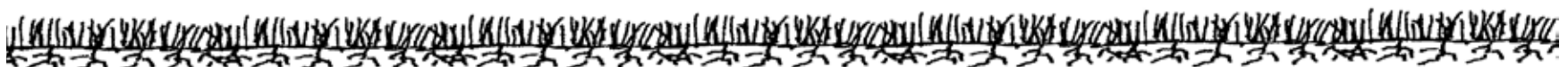
Project 90 (P90)

Project Hope in collaboration with Project Place welcomes Project 90, a free 12-week job readiness-training program focusing on interviewing skills, resume writing, computer skills, employment skills, professionalism, customer service certification and internship placement. Participants receive job placement support and/or enrollment in higher skills training programs.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Currently be experiencing homelessness (living in shelter, transitional housing, halfway homes)
- Express motivation to work
- Have a professional attitude

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SURVIVAL TIPS

continued from page 26...

- Be interested in entry-level employment or higher skills training in a variety of settings upon completion of program
- Be eligible to work in the United States.
- Speak, write, and understand English
- Be able to attend and complete training

Interested Candidates: Read the Open House Information at www.prohope.org/openhouse_faq.htm and complete the Registration Form at www.prohope.org/openhouse_form.htm. If you have questions, please call 617-442-1880 ext. 218 to leave a message. A staff member will return your call.

YMCA Training, Inc.

This is a 5-month training program for jobs in Medical Office, Insurance, Banking, and Administrative and Office support. There are internship opportunities in an 8-week internship. There is assistance in job matching and job search. There are long-term partnerships with major employers, including: Bank New York Mellon, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Medical Center, City of Boston, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Joslin Diabetes Center, One Beacon Insurance, Pilgrim Insurance, Sovereign Bank, Suffolk University, Tufts Medical Center, and Wainwright Bank.

Extra services include: Weekly ESOL English Pronunciation classes; additional tutoring in computers, math, and writing; free beautiful gently used and new business clothing for interviews and work; individual mentors help each trainee and graduate prepare for and conduct successful a job search; support and referrals for medical, counseling, child care, housing, legal, and CORI issues.

The program hours are from 9am-4pm, Mon thru Friday. Must have a High School diploma or GED. This is a professional environment with a dress code.

To apply, call Leigh Payne Hewlitt at 617-542-1800, ext. 128

Emergency birth control

In the United States, women and men age 17 and older can purchase emergency contraception over the counter at most pharmacies. People under age 17 need a prescription. If you have had unprotected sex or think your birth control method has failed, you can use the “morning-after-pill” to prevent pregnancy. Just ask your pharmacist for Plan B One-Step or Next Choice. Emergency contraception works best if taken as soon as possible and within 5 days after sex. If you are sexually active, it is good to have it on hand just in case. If your doctor or hospital refuses to give you a prescription, call the Emergency Contraceptive Hotline, 1-888-not-2-lat (1-888-668-2528), or go to the Emergency Contraception Website, ec.princeton.edu. The Website gives the name of a pharmacy near you where you can get the pill.

More useful information

The DTA Recipient Services Office is very helpful in giving information about policy and what you are entitled to. Call 1-800-445-6604.

DTA regulations are available on the Web: www.state.ma.us/dta

Benefits for Massachusetts residents

MassResources.org describes state and federal benefits available to Massachusetts residents.

Childcare benefits regulations and other information are available on the Web at www.mass.gov/eec, which is the website for the state Office of Child Care Services.

Coming Home: Directory: A Resource Directory for Ex-Offenders Returning to Greater Boston Communities is a comprehensive resource book published by the Crime and Justice Institute. It is available online at www.cominghomedirectory.org. The directory is published by the Crime and Justice Institute, 617-482-2520, ext. 130.

Elder Resource Guide is published by the Brookline Council on Aging and the Brookline Senior Center. It contains a wealth of information for elders. It is available online at www.brooklinema.gov. Click on “Departments,” “Council on Aging,” and “Elder Resource Guide.”

Do you have a Criminal Record? Do you have trouble finding jobs or housing because of your CORI? If you have a CORI and need information about jobs, housing, sealing your record, mistakes on your CORI or other problems, call the Legal Advocacy and Resource Center at 617-603-1700. For more information about CORI law, visit www.masslegalhelp.org/cori.

The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy Benefits Access Line, for teen parents and people who work with them. They answer questions about welfare, food stamps, housing, childcare or other services in your area that teens and their children might be eligible for. Call 1-800-645-3750 ext. 115.

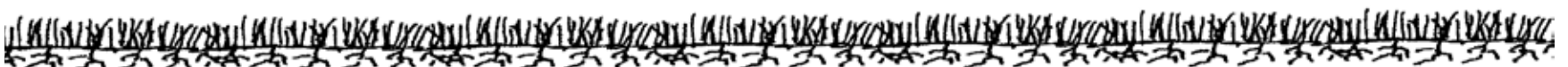
Jane Doe, Inc. A hot line, sponsored by the Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, helps people who are sexually assaulted or fleeing from domestic violence. Call (617) 248-0922.

National Network of Abortion Funds

If you need an abortion but are unable to pay for it, the National Network of Abortion Funds may be able to help you. Visit their website at nnaf.org

Thanks: to *Melanie Malherbe of Greater Boston Legal Services, Kelly Hurley of Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Pat Baker of the Food Stamp Coalition, Roxanne Reddington-Wilde of ABCD, and The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for their help.*

Note: *We have checked this information carefully and believe that it is correct at the time of writing, January 2013. However, things sometimes change. Agencies sometimes use up their money or change their policies. We will check the information again before we print another issue, so subscribe to Survival News for the latest survival tips, or go to their web site, survivorsinc.org! These Survival Tips were compiled by Betty Reid Mandell. If you have questions about this information, or if you have a useful survival tip, she can be contacted by phone at 617-327-4219, or by email at mmandell@curry.edu.*



Donate to Survivors Inc. by visiting www.survivorsinc.org

PUNTOS CLAVES PARA SOBREVIVIR

Greater Boston Legal Services puede ayudarle a obtener beneficios

Si usted tiene dificultad para obtener los beneficios a los cuales tiene derecho, contacte a Greater Boston Legal Services (Servicios Legales del Gran Boston) al teléfono 617-371-1234. GBLS puede darle asesoría o representarle para negociar con el Departamento de Asistencia Transitoria (Department of Transitional Assistance, asistencia social) o la Agencia de Viviendas (Housing Authority). Para comunicarse con clientes que no son de habla inglesa, se les proporciona defensores bilingües o intérpretes. Si usted no vive en el área de Boston, GBLS puede remitirle a Legal Services en su área.

Asimismo, puede obtener asesoría legal en línea en MassLegalHelp, www.masslegalhelp.org.

Programas de alimentos

Project Bread (Proyecto Pan) puede darle información sobre cupones de alimentos, decirle cuáles despensas de alimentos o comedores comunitarios son cercanos a su casa y mencionarle los puestos de extensión de cupones de alimentos. El Proyecto tiene a su disposición intérpretes en varios idiomas. Llame a la Línea de Emergencia de FoodSource, al teléfono 1-800-645-8333 o al TTY 1-800-377-1292.

Todos tienen derecho de solicitar los cupones de alimentos (actualmente llamados SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Programa Suplementario de Asistencia Nutricional) en la oficina local del DTA, por Internet o en otros puestos de extensión de cupones de alimentos. Llame al DTA, al teléfono 1-800-249-2007, para averiguar dónde está la oficina local del DTA. Puede también llamar a la Línea de FoodSource del Project Bread al teléfono 1-800-645-8333 para saber de otros puestos de cupones de alimentos en su área. **Usted tiene el derecho de firmar la solicitud en papel el mismo día que visita la oficina local del DTA.**

Puede también aplicarse en el internet a www.state.ma.us/dta y haciendo clic en “Solicitar Cupones de Alimentos (Apply for Food Stamps)” para una solicitud en línea o puede imprimir la solicitud en el sitio web del DTA. También puede pedir a la oficina central del DTA que le envíe una copia en papel por correo y, una vez llenada, re-enviársela al DTA.

Si usted tiene poco o nada de ingreso o activo, o si el costo del refugio es mayor a su ingreso y el dinero en el banco, usted puede obtener cupones agilizados (rápidos) de alimentos. Esto significa que puede conseguir los cupones dentro de 7 días, después que el DTA recibe la solicitud firmada. A veces lo mejor es ir personalmente si necesita los cupones enseguida. El DTA le pedirá que verifique quién es usted (su identidad) y le preguntará sobre sus ingresos y gastos para ver si usted califica. No necesita una identificación con foto. Si no tiene ninguna evidencia de identidad pero sabe su SSN (número de seguro social), el DTA puede comprobar su identidad a través de su SSN y la fecha de nacimiento.

Aunque no califique para los cupones agilizados de alimentos,

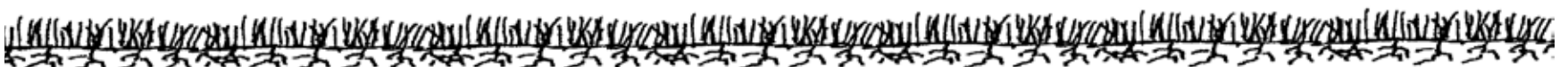
puede aún obtener los cupones en 30 días posteriores a su solicitud, si usted satisface las reglas de elegibilidad. Necesitará entrevistarse y proporcionar pruebas de su ingreso, costo del refugio y otros gastos. Usted recibirá una carta por correo después de la aplicación informándole para cuándo la entrevista será programada y cuáles son las evidencias que usted necesita. A menos que usted necesite cupones agilizados de alimentos, el DTA no toma en cuenta sus activos al determinar si usted califica para los beneficios.

No olvide de informar al DTA si usted paga por el cuidado de sus hijos, cuotas para programas antes/después de la escuela o por el cuidado de un adulto con discapacidad, para que usted pueda trabajar. Puede también reclamar el costo de transporte (público o con su vehículo) al y desde el lugar del cuidado de sus hijos, programas montados en las escuelas, etc. a la tasa federal de millaje de 55 centavos por milla. Usted puede declarar el costo de manutención de sus hijos. El reclamar los gastos de manutención de sus hijos puede aumentar sus cupones de alimentos.

Si alguien de su hogar es discapacitado o tiene 60 años o más de edad, ellos también pueden reclamar el costo de cualquier gasto médico para aumentar los cupones de alimentos. Los gastos médicos que se pueden reclamar incluyen el transporte a la cita con médicos y a farmacias para recoger medicamentos (a 55 centavos por milla). También se incluyen vitaminas, aspirinas, baterías para audífono, anteojos, cremas sin receta usadas para tratar las condiciones de piel y cualquier otro producto médico recomendado por el proveedor, así como los costos de terapias alternativas que no son cubiertas por MassHealth o Medicare (quiropática, acupuntura, terapias de masaje y remedios de hierba). Puede también reclamar y comprobar el costo para los animales de servicio. Usted necesitará proporcionar evidencias de sus gastos médicos y una lista de instalaciones médicas que visita para reclamar el transporte, incluyendo facturas de veterinarios y provisiones alimenticios. Si un familiar de mayor edad (60+) o discapacitado gasta más de \$35/mes en gastos relacionados a tratamientos médicos, el DTA permitirá una deducción estándar de \$90. La deducción puede ser aún mayor si los gastos varios son mayores. **El reclamar los gastos médicos puede aumentar sus beneficios de cupones de alimentos.**

Los estudiantes universitarios pueden obtener cupones de alimentos si consiguen algunos de las siguientes cosas a) el estudiante recibe Federal Work Study (FWS) para pagar su matrícula, b) trabaja 20 horas por la semana, c) tiene hijos menor de 12 años o recibe TAFDC, d) está discapacitado, e) tiene más que 49 años o tiene menos de 18 años, f) asiste a la universidad con un Programa de Empleo y Formación o la División de Desempleo. Además, algunos estudiantes que asisten a colegios universitarios pueden calificar para cupones de alimentos si estudian en un programa de empleo y formación, o si el colegio universitario cree que el estudiante puede obtener un empleo después de sus estudios. DTA tiene un formulario para colegios universitarios para verificar los programas

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PUNTOS CLAVES PARA SOBREVIVIR

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de los estudiantes que son menos de 22 años de edad y reciben los beneficios “SNAP” de sus padres.

Si se le niegan los cupones de alimentos o no está de acuerdo con el monto de sus beneficios, usted tiene derecho a cuestionar y desafiar cualquier decisión tomada por el DTA, a la cual usted no está de acuerdo. Existe información en línea sobre cómo apelar la denegación de beneficios: www.masslegalhelp.org. Puede también contactar a la oficina de Legal Services de su área para asesoría y representación.

Para Comer el Almuerzo de la Escuela

Si la escuela de su familia está autorizada a proporcionar el almuerzo, debe saber:

- Los niños en hogares TAFDC o SNAP debe ser aprobada automáticamente para recibir comidas gratis sin tener que presentar una solicitud por separado.
- Los niños de crianza temporal deben ser aprobadas automáticamente.
- Los niños sin hogar, fuera de control, y los trabajadores migrantes deben ser aprobadas automáticamente.
- Una vez aprobado, un niño es elegible para el año escolar y los primeros 30 días del próximo año escolar.
- Las familias no necesitan números de Seguro Social para presentar una solicitud para las comidas escolares.
- Las familias no están obligados a proporcionar los talones de cheques, declaraciones de impuestos u otros comprobantes de ingresos con la aplicación.
- Las familias que reciben beneficios de TAFDC o SNAP sólo necesitan dar su agencia DTA número de identificación no, la información de los ingresos brutos, sobre la aplicación.
- Los distritos escolares deben tramitar las solicitudes de comidas escolares en los 10 días siguientes a la recepción.

Fair Foods

Fair Foods distribuya alimentos a comunidades empobrecimientos en Massachusetts y New Hampshire. Puede comprar alimentos de bien calidad, incluyendo frutas y vegetales frescos, por \$2 por una bolsa – traiga su propia bolsa. Llame al teléfono 617-288-6185 y visitar al sitio web www.fairfoods.org. Tienen locaciones en Boston y Dorchester.

Community Servings

Community Servings es un programa sin fines de lucro alimentación y la nutrición a través de la prestación de servicios Massachusetts a las personas y familias que viven con enfermedades graves y crónicas. Ellos dan a sus clientes, sus familias y cuidadores a cargo, atractivas y nutritivas comidas y envíe el mensaje a aquellos que más lo necesitan que alguien se preocupa. Sus objetivos son ayudar a nuestros clientes a mantener su salud y su dignidad y preservar la integridad de sus familias a través de libres, culturalmente apropiados, comidas a domicilio, educación sobre nutrición y otros programas comunitarios. Llame al 617-522-7777, fax: 617-522-7770, Email: info@servings.org.

Ayuda para pagar el Combustible en los meses

del invierno

Las personas de bajos ingresos pueden obtener ayuda para pagar el combustible. **ABCD** administra el programa federal de asistencia para combustibles en Boston, Brookline y Newton. El número de teléfono es 617-357-6012, ext. 11. La asistencia es dirigida para cualquier forma de calefacción — petróleo, gas, electricidad, leña o queroseno. La ayuda se le otorga a aquellas personas que tiene la calefacción incluida en el alquiler de viviendas no subsidiadas. Las personas con subsidios para viviendas pueden obtener ayuda si pagan la calefacción. El período de inscripción es del 1 noviembre al 30 abril. El nivel de elegibilidad es el 60% del ingreso medio de Massachusetts. Una familia de 1 miembro puede ganar hasta \$31,271, de 2 miembros hasta \$40,893, de 3 miembros hasta \$50,515 y de 4 miembros hasta \$60,137. Para más detalles, visita <http://www.bostonabcd.org/fuel-assistance-liheap.aspx>

Todas las personas que califican para la asistencia de combustibles pueden serlo también para obtener una tarifa reducida para las facturas de los servicios públicos y otros beneficios de ABCD, incluyendo la climatización (insulación de su casa contra el frío), revisión eléctrica y reparación o reemplazo del sistema de calefacción. Hogares de bajos ingresos que solicitan asistencia de combustible también puede calificar para una auditoría de energía gratuita a través del programa de Climatización (“Weatherization”) asociado, sin tener que solicitar por separado.

Si vive fuera de Boston, Brookline y Newton, llame al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunal (Department of Housing and Community Development), al teléfono 1-800-632-8175, para averiguar sobre la agencia cercana a usted.

The Good Neighbor Energy Fund

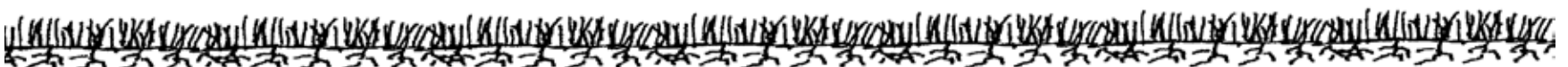
Esta unidad, entre empresas de energía y The Salvation Army, proporciona dinero a familias que viven en Massachusetts que tienen dificultad para pagar para la calefacción durante el invierno. En 2012, cada familia que califica podría recibir \$350 del Fund. Para calificarse por el Fund, cada familia necesita ganar su sueldo menos de 60 a 80 por ciento del nivel del ingreso medio.

Por ejemplo, una familia de 1 persona necesita ganar su ingreso total entre \$31,271 y \$41,695 para calificar; una familia de 2 personas necesita ganar su ingreso total entre \$40,893 y \$54,524 para calificar; una familia de 3 personas necesita ganar su ingreso total entre \$50,515 y \$67,353 para calificar; una familia de 4 personas necesita ganar su ingreso total entre \$60,137 y \$80,182. Para aplicar por el Fund, visite a un de los 36 sitios del Salvation Army en Massachusetts, y llame 1-800-334-3047 (en MA del este, codas telefónicas 617, 508, 978, 781) o 1-800-262-1320 (para las familias que viven in MA del oeste). También visite el sitio web <http://magoodneighbor.org/assistance.html>

Mass Energy Consumers Alliance (Alianza para Consumidores de Energía de Massachusetts) le ahorra dinero a usted por el consumo de combustible. Puede ahorrar de \$100 a \$250 por el combustible para la calefacción afiliándose a la Alianza por **\$20, \$10 o, gratis** si recibe ayuda para combustibles. Tiene que proporcionar una carta de aprobación de la agencia que le brinda ayuda para combustibles y enviarla junto con su solicitud.

Los miembros ahorran de 10 a 30 centavos por galón comparado al precio regular al por menor. Proveedores confiables de

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PUNTOS CLAVES PARA SOBREVIVIR

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servicio completo entregan el combustible a domicilio y abastecen su sistema. Llame al teléfono 617-524-3950 o al 1-800-287-3950 para más información, en inglés o en español. El sitio web es www.massenergy.org. Su dirección postal es: 284 Amory Street, Boston, MA 02130.

Ayuda para las facturas de electricidad y gas
Descuentos para el gas y la electricida, y planes de presupuesto
Los servicios públicos de gas y electricidad en Massachussets deben ofrecer una tasa de descuento baja renta. La única empresa municipal de gestión utilidad que ofrece tarifas de descuento en el gas es Belmont Municipal. La mayoría que las familias que reciben ayuda para las fracturas de electricidad y gas (Fuel Assistance) será inscrito automáticamente. Si puede calificar, obtenga un formulario de la compañía del servicio (por ejemplo NSTAR o Nacional Grid), rellene el formulario y envíalo a la compañía. También puede llamar a la compañía – deben inscribirse lo antes posibles, y no necesitan esperar a verificar los ingresos. Para el invierno 2011-2012 los ingresos para calificar son: para 1 persona –\$30,751 o menos; para 2 -- \$31,271 o menos; para 3 -- \$40,893 o menos; para 4 -- \$50,137 o menos.

Todos pueden ahorrar dinero con planes de presupuesto
Las utlidades ofrecen planes a nivel de pagos mensuales. Se estima el consumo anual y dividir esa cantidad en 12 pagos iguales.

Todos pueden obtener un “auditoría del uso de energía” gratis
Puede aprender a ahorrar energía y dinero.

Sus Derechos Contra la Desconexión de los Servicios Públicos
Todas las personas en el hogar tienen 65 años o más
A menos que el DPU (departamento de servicios públicos) permite, la mayoría de familias de las personas mayores no tienen utilidades desconectado. Una empresa de servicios públicos puede, sin embargo, colocar un gravamen sobre la casa del dueño de casa por la cantidad debida, incluso si no pueden hacer gas o eléctrico de cierre.

Plan de pago
Todos los clientes tienen derecho a un plan de pago. Esto permite que el cliente que está atrasado en el pago de sus facturas espacie los pagos a lo largo de varios meses. Si no se le ha suspendido todavía el servicio al cliente, la empresa debe ofrecer un plan de pago de al menos 4 meses. Usted se puede obtener una prórroga mediante la negociación entre la empresa y el cliente. Si necesita ayuda, llame al DPU Consumer Division (la divisón de consumo) al teléfono 1-877-886-5066.

Las utilidades deben convertir de nuevo en servicio para los hogares de asistencia de combustible que son capaces de pagar el 25% de las facturas atrasadas. Fondos de asistencia de combustible puede ayudar a ese 25%.

Las empresas deben ofrecer un plan de pago que conecta las utilidades que han suspendidos.ABCD proporciona servicios de referencia y de promoción para los clientes elegibles que quieren un plan de pago. En Boston, Brookline y Newton, National Grid

y NSTAR ofrecen planes de pago. Los clientes pueden tener sus deudas perdonadas entre \$1500-\$2000 por años con un plan de pago.
Llame al teléfono 1-800-233-5325 para hablar con National Grid y al teléfono 1-866-315-2496 para hablar con NSTAR.

Si el Propietario No Paga la Fractura
Todos los inquilinos (ingresos no son importantes) están protegidos cuando el propietario paga la fractura para los servicios públicos. Si el propietario no paga la fractura, los inquilinos tienen 30 dias para pagar sus partes de la fractura. Si todos los inquilinos no la pagan, sólo el DPU del estado decide si es necesario a desconectar los servicios públicos. Contacte al DPU rapidamente si los servicios públicos están desconectados en su hogar. Si el edificio está en ejucución de una hipoteca, el propietario debe mantener los servicios públicos.

4 Maneras para Familias de Bajos Ingresos Elegibles pueden Mantener Conectados los Servicios Públicos

Personas Mayores
Las empresas utilidades no deben desconectar el gas o la electricidad si sus clientes tienen 65 años o más. Las empresas utilidades pueden enviarle una forma para protección para personas mayores.

Enfermedades graves
Si alguien en el hogar padece una enfermedad grave, las empresas de servicios públicos no pueden desconectar (y deben reconectar) los servicios. La enfermedad puede ser:

- física (pneumonía, etc)
- mental (depresión, bipolar o trastorno hiperactivo de déficit de atención),
- así como de corto plazo (p. ej. gripe)
- de largo plazo (cáncer).

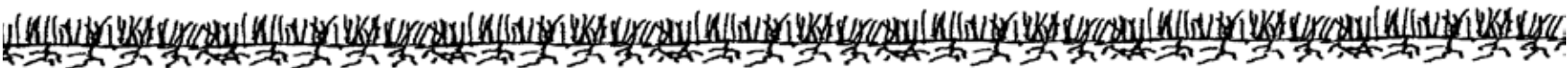
Las empresas de servicios públicos no llegan a decidir cuáles son las enfermedades graves. Lo único que usted necesita es una carta del doctor. Una llamada telefónica del doctor a la empresa es aceptable al inicio, si luego se envía una carta. El servicio debe ser restablecido el mismo día (en el peor de los casos, al día siguiente) después de recibir la documentación.

Niños menores de 12 meses
La empresa de servicios públicos no puede suspender el servicio si hay un niño menor de 12 meses en el hogar y debe restablecer el servicio que ha sido suspendido si el niño estaba en el hogar en el momento o antes de la suspensión. Mostrar la edad del niño con un certificado de nacimiento o bautismo, r alguna prueba razonable. También, envíe un formulario de dificultades financieras.

Moratoria para invierno
Las empresas de servicios públicos no pueden suspender el servicio relacionado a la calefacción (es decir, servicio de gas natural, si se lo usa para calentar la casa, o electricidad, si el arrendatario la paga para la calefacción porque la electricidad es necesaria para controlar la caldera) entre el 15 de noviembre y el 15 de marzo si el hogar tiene dificultades financieras. Los hogares en TAFDC o Asistencia de combustible califican automáticamente para la moratoria.

Egilibilidad de Ingresos

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- 1 persona: \$31,218
- 2 personas: \$40,824
- 3 personas: \$50,429
- 4 personas: \$60,035
- 5 personas: \$69,641

Contacto

Si usted tiene problema en obligar a la empresa de servicios públicos que cumpla con cualquiera de las medidas de protección o los programas descritos anteriormente, llame a la División del Consumidor del Departamento de Servicios Públicos (Consumer Division of the Department of Utility) al teléfono **1-877-886-5066**. El representante telefónico de atención al cliente debe intervenir en nombre suyo.

Ayuda con la factura del teléfono

Puede ahorrarse en su factura de teléfono para servicios locales a través de los programas **Lifeline** y **Linkup** que ofrece la empresa telefónica. Cualquier persona que recibe Mass Health, SSI, cupones de alimentos, TAFDC, asistencia para combustibles, EAEDC, subsidios para viviendas, o el almuerzo gratis a la escuela califica. Puede ahorrar \$35 de su factura de servicio telefónica y Linkup proporciona descuentos para la activación y la instalación. Contacte a su compañía telefónica local y solicite el servicio **Link-Up**.

Usted puede también obtener el formulario del trabajador social de su programa. El DTA o la Oficina de Asistencia para Combustibles necesita verificar que usted está inscrito en uno de los programas. Visite su sitio web: lifeline.myfamilymobile.com

Teléfono Celular Gratis

SafeLink Wireless es un programa apoyado por el Gobeirno que provee un aparato celular gratis, 250 minutos celular y 250 mensajes de texto cada mes para los clientes con ingresos elegibles. El proceso de calificación para el Servicio Lifeline depende del estado donde usted vive. De forma general, usted califica si...

1. Usted recibe beneficios de algún programa de asistencia, estatal o federal, por ejemplo: asistencia federal de viviendas públicas, cupones de alimentos (SNAP), MassHealth, EAEDC, TAFDC, Y...
2. Ninguna persona en su hogar recibe actualmente el Servicio Lifeline a través de otro proveedor de servicio telefónico.
3. Usted tiene una dirección postal válida dentro de los Estados Unidos. Un apartado postal no es aceptable.

Además de cumplir con los requisitos anteriormente mencionados, usted deberá presentar la documentación que pruebe su participación en un programa de asistencia o el nivel de su ingreso.

Llame al teléfono 1-888-898-4888 o visite www.safelink.com. También puede obtener el formulario para SafeLink en su biblioteca municipal.

Si su casa está bajo ejecución hipotecaria

Una ley federal proporciona una protección de 90 días a los inquilinos que viven en propiedades bajo ejecución hipotecaria en todo el país. **Todos los inquilinos deben obtener una notificación de 90 días antes que se inicie el proceso de desalojo como resultado de la ejecución hipotecaria.** Además, la mayoría de los inquilinos que

tienen contratos de arrendamiento pueden seguir viviendo en sus casas hasta el final del plazo de los mismos.

Los derechos de los inquilinos establecidos en la Sección 8 son también protegidos porque el nuevo propietario bajo la ejecución hipotecaria debe aceptar tanto el contrato de arrendamiento del inquilino como el contrato de pago de asistencia de viviendas (HAP).

City Life/Vida Urbana ayuda a la gente a confrontar la ejecución hipotecaria. La organización les enseña sobre sus derechos, proporciona ayuda legal, organiza manifestaciones contra la ejecución bancaria de hipotecas e impide desalojos.

City Life/Vida Urbana organiza a residentes de la comunidad para que obtengan una vivienda más asequible, prevenir desalojos e informar a la gente sobre sus derechos a las viviendas.

Su oficina está en el 284 Amory St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Si usted necesita ayuda, o si quiere ayudar a la organización, llame al teléfono 617-524-3541. Su sitio web es www.clvu.org. Email info@clvu.org. Fax 617-524-3555.

Requisito de trabajo para destinatarios de la TAFDC

El gobierno federal está presionando al DTA a forzar a más padres de familias que reciben asistencia social a trabajar en el mercado laboral pagado o bien cumplir con las actividades de requisito de trabajo de 20 a 30 horas por semana. Si el trabajador social le presiona a usted a hacer algo que no puede hacer, como por ejemplo obtener un trabajo o buscar un trabajo u otro programa, solicite ayuda a la oficina de Legal Services. Usted puede ser elegible para ser exento del requisito de trabajo o el límite de tiempo, o usted puede ser elegible para una “buena causa” excepción.

La educación y la capacitación cuentan como requisito de trabajo de la TAFDC por lo menos durante 12 meses. La mayoría de los programas de educación de adultos y de capacitación laboral son tomados en cuenta. Programas universitarios, incluyendo 4 años de licenciatura, pueden ser también tomados en cuenta (tiene que especializarse en algo que lo lleve a un empleo). El tiempo dedicado a la educación y capacitación cuando usted estaba exento del requisito de trabajo no cuenta contra sus 12 meses. Si necesita más de 12 meses, consulte llamando a Legal Services. El hecho de que un programa dure más de 12 meses no constituye un fundamento legal para que el DTA rechace el tomarlo en cuenta al menos por 12 meses.

La búsqueda de vivienda para personas que permanecen en refugios de emergencia tomada en cuenta para el requisito de trabajo. El DTA debe tratar a las familias en los refugios como si estuviesen cumpliendo totalmente con el requisito de trabajo, mientras que las familias satisfagan los requisitos de Asistencia de Emergencia (Emergency Assistance, EA) o búsqueda de vivienda para refugiados, independientemente del número de horas que la familia dedique para la búsqueda de vivienda.

El DTA no debería reducir o suspender sus beneficios por no satisfacer el requisito de trabajo (o los términos de su Plan de Desarrollo de Empleo) si usted tiene una “causa buena” como:

- carece del cuido adecuado para sus hijos o no hay disponibilidad del mismo;
- carece de transporte asequible y confiable;
- tiene que buscar vivienda;

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- no existe disponibilidad de un lugar adecuado de servicio comunitario identificado por el DTA;
- tiene un familiar con enfermedad o discapacidad;
- tiene que cuidar del familiar con enfermedad o discapacidad;
- está en crisis familiar, emergencia u otras situaciones convincentes fuera de su control al cual tiene que atender durante las horas que de otra manera estaría haciendo las actividades requeridas;
- tiene un trabajo o le han ofrecido un trabajo que: viola las leyes del salario mínimo; ha sido discriminatorio en base a la edad, género, raza, religión, origen étnico o discapacidad física o mental; viola los estándares de salud y seguridad; o estuvo disponible debido a una huelga o cierre patronal.

El DTA no debería reducir o suspender sus beneficios sin antes revisar todas las razones de causas buenas arriba mencionadas junto con la familia para ver si algunas se aplican. Si usted piensa que el DTA cometió un error en reducir o eliminar sus beneficios, inmediatamente interponga una petición y contacte a la oficina de Legal Services de su área para solicitar ayuda.

Ayuda con problemas de vivienda

ABCD en Boston ofrece asesoría de vivienda para las personas que pasan por el desalojo, o de la corte de vivienda. Su defensa Tribunal de la Vivienda (HCA) es parte de la Vivienda y falta de techo serie del Departamento de Vivienda Y Prevención de la Falta de vivienda y programas de estabilización. Este programa ayuda a las familias de ingresos bajos y moderados que viven en Boston evitar el desalojo, mantienen su tenencia, y entender sus derechos y responsabilidades del inquilino. Su número es 647-348-6347.

El programa de HCA abogado personal para los inquilinos antes y durante los procesos judiciales para ayudar a mantener su tenencia por:

- Educar a los clientes sobre sus derechos y responsabilidades
- Garantizar derechos de los clientes se observan en la sala del tribunal
- Apoyar a los clientes durante la mediación con el propietario o administrador de la propiedad
- Proporcionar a los clientes con recursos externos para ayudar a mantener su tenencia

Cuando un inquilino recibe un Notificación de 14 o 30 días para mudarse o es citado a comparecer ante la Corte de Vivienda de Boston, los abogados Tribunal de la Vivienda pueden ayudar al inquilino durante las audiencias del panel de recertificación, el desalojo, y querella. De manera individual, los clientes de CHA personal de apoyo antes y durante el proceso judicial y solicitar la asistencia legal que se requiera.

Si se enfrentan a discriminación en la vivienda...

Centro de Vivienda Justa de Boston es la organización de la feria de vivienda solo integral trabajando para eliminar la discriminación de vivienda y promover comunidades abiertas de la región. El FHCGb a cabo su misión en Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex, Essex y los condados de Plymouth a través de ofrecer un conjunto de herramientas completo de servicios de vivienda justa: pruebas, la sentencia de promoción, capacitación, extensión comunitaria, promoción de políticas, y la Investigación. Financiado por los EE.UU. Departamento de Vivienda

y Desarrollo Urbano, fundaciones y los donantes corporativos y partidarios individuales, el FHCGb trabaja para romper el silencio en torno a la discriminación de vivienda, para ofrecer el recurso a las personas perjudicadas por la discriminación, y educar e informar a los profesionales de la vivienda y los residentes de su derechos y responsabilidades. Están ubicados en 262 Washington Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Teléfono: 617-399-0491. Email: info@bostonfairhousing.org; sitio Web: www.bostonfairhousing.org

¿Quiere ayudar a mejorar las cosas?

Si quiere unirse a otras personas para mejorar las políticas de la TAFDC, cupones de alimentos, asistencia de emergencia (incluyendo refugios para familias) o viviendas, existen grupos que trabajan en dichos temas, los cuales estarían encantados si usted se afilia. Estos grupos son:

Family Economic Initiative (Iniciativa Económica de la Familia) trabaja en temas relacionados a la TAFDC (asistencia social para familias con hijos). El grupo se reúne una vez al mes en Greater Boston Legal Services en el 197 Friend St., Boston. Contactar a Kelly Turley, 781-595-7570 ext. 17 para más información.

Mass Coalition for the Homeless (Coalición de Massachusetts para Personas Desamparadas) trabaja en temas relacionados a la vivienda e indigencia. También aboga por individuos desamparados. El grupo se reúne una vez al mes, normalmente los viernes finales del mes, en Boston. Contactar a 781-595-7570 para más información.

Food Stamp Coalition (Coalición de Cupones de Alimentos) trabaja en el tema de cupones de alimentos, actualmente llamados SNAP. El grupo se reúne una vez al mes. Contactar a Pat Baker en Mass Law Reform Institute (Instituto de Reformas de Leyes de Massachusetts), al pbaker@mlri.org o llame 617-357-0700 ext 328 para más información.

Recupere su dinero a través del Crédito Tributario por Ingresos del Trabajo

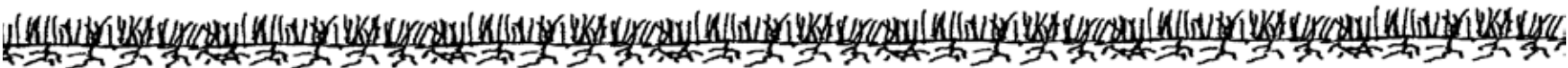
Usted puede calificar para recibir hasta \$5,236 a través del Crédito Tributario por Ingresos del Trabajo (Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC), un reembolso de impuesto para personas que trabajan. Usted ganó este dinero, de manera que no deje que su reembolso quede sin ser reclamado.

¿Quién puede obtener el EIC y cuál es su valor?

Personas solteras o casadas quienes trabajaron a tiempo completo o parcial por algún período en el 2012 pueden calificarse para el EITC, dependiendo de su ingreso. Estudiantes que ganan Federal Work Study (un estipendio para trabajar durante los estudios universitarios) también pueden calificar por el EITC.

- Familias con ingreso \$36,920 con 1 hijo calificados (\$42,130 si está casado y rinde la declaración de impuestos en conjunto). El crédito máximo establecido es de \$3,169.
- \$41,952 con 2 hijos calificados (\$47,162 si está casado y rinde la declaración de impuestos en conjunto). El crédito máximo establecido es de \$5,236.
- \$45,060 con 3 hijos o más calificados (\$50,270 si está casado y rinde la declaración de impuestos en conjunto). El crédito

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- máximo establecido es de \$5,891.
- Con ingresos bajo \$13,980 , sin hijos, entre las edades 25 y 64 años en 31 diciembre 2012 (\$19,190 si están casados y rinden la declaración de impuestos en conjunto). El crédito máximo establecido es de \$475.

Si quiere obtener un estimado del reembolso al cual usted tiene derecho, visite el sitio web del EITC en <http://www.cbpp.org/eic2012/calculator>

Puede obtener Pagos Adelantados de EITC en su cheque de salario. Para obtener los Pagos Adelantados de EITC, entregue el formulario W-5 a su empleador. Puede obtener el formulario W-5 de su empleador o bien llamando al IRS al teléfono 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3637). Si usted tiene una cuenta corriente, puede obtener su reembolso de EITC directamente depositado a su cuenta.

Hay personas que pagan dinero a empresas tributarias privadas como H&R Block para obtener asistencia al preparar sus formularios de impuestos o para obtener el dinero inmediatamente. En vez de hacer eso, trate de obtener asesoría gratuita. Guarde su dinero o ahórrelo y ocúpelo para construir un mejor futuro para usted mismo y su familia. ABCD maneja 13 sitios de preparación de impuestos en Boston. Visite al sitio web <http://masscashback.ehs.state.ma.us>

Los pagos que su familia recibe como Crédito Tributario por Ingresos del Trabajo no son considerados como ingresos al determinar la elegibilidad o los niveles del beneficio de la TAFDC, Medicaid, cupones de alimentos, SSI, actividades de experiencia laboral (tales como servicios comunitarios) o viviendas públicas. Los estudiantes que están en el programa de trabajo para estudio pueden reclamar el EITC.

Para calcular su EITC, use la hoja de cálculo especial incluida como parte de las instrucciones para el EITC en los formularios 1040, 1040A o 1040EZ.

Los trabajadores de Massachusetts obtienen crédito estatal extra por un valor correspondiente al 15 % de su crédito federal si ganan menos de \$49,078. Puede solicitar el formulario de impuesto y obtener más información llamando al teléfono 617-887-6367 o al 1-800-392-6089. Su sitio web www.mass.gov/dor

Crédito Tributario por Hijos: ¡Una deducción tributaria extra para familias trabajadoras!

El Crédito Tributario por Hijos (Child Tax Credit, CTC) es un crédito tributario federal por un valor de hasta \$1,000 en 2012 para cada uno de los hijos calificados menores de 17 años de edad reclamado como dependiente en la declaración de impuestos del trabajador. Para optar al reembolso de CTC, un trabajador soltero o casado debe:

- tener un hijo calificado menor de 17 años de edad;
- tener el número de Seguro Social o el número de Identificación Individual de Contribuyente.

Los trabajadores inmigrantes que tienen cualquiera de estos números pueden posiblemente reclamar el reembolso de CTC.

Las familias elegibles pueden recibir hasta \$ 1,000 por cada hijo calificado menor de 17 años afirmó en su declaración de impuestos.

Para obtener el reembolso del Crédito Tributario por Hijos,

rinda una declaración federal de impuestos—formularios 1040 o 1040A, pero no puede ser el 1040EZ.

Algunas familias pueden obtener el crédito aunque no deban impuestos sobre la renta. A esto se le conoce como el reembolso de CTC Adicional. Para averiguar si usted es elegible para este crédito, presente el formulario 8812. Este formulario debe ser adjuntado a la declaración de impuestos para que la familia reciba el reembolso de CTC.

Familias trabajadoras pueden obtener tanto el reembolso del Crédito Tributario por Hijos como el Crédito Tributario por Ingresos del Trabajo.

Ni el Crédito por Ingreso o El Crédito Tributario por Hijos afecta la elegibilidad para los beneficios federales, estatales o locales, tales como cupones de alimentos, SSI, o cuidado de niños financiados incluso en parte con fondos federales.

¿Quién le brinda ayuda?

¿Dónde podrá acudir usted por ayuda para el alquiler, alimentos, dinero, servicios públicos o ayuda para combustibles cuando se agota su dinero de asistencia social o SSI, o cuando usted sea eliminado del programa de asistencia social debido al límite de tiempo?

United Way First Call for Help (Primera Llamada para Ayuda de United Way) es un buen lugar para iniciar su búsqueda. La organización puede proporcionarle información y referencias. Llámelos al 211. La organización atiende día y noche, 7 días a la semana. Hay disponibilidad de servicios de intérprete hasta para 140 idiomas diferentes. Las horas de atención es de 8:00 am a 8:00 pm los días de semana. United Way tiene también **Línea de Ayuda de Abuso Sustancial**, al teléfono 1-800-327-5050. Asimismo le puede dar información sobre **H1N1 o gripe estacional**. Atiende las 24 horas del día.

Caridades Católicas: Con 15 sitios a través de Greater Boston, Caridades Católicas es capaz de proporcionar una amplia gama de apoyo, incluyendolas despensas de alimentos, alquiler y asistencia de hipotecas, asistencia de servicios públicos, asistencia en la provisión de muebles, artículos para bebé, ropa y otras necesidades, y de temporada y vacaciones asistencia a las familias que no pueden permitirse una comida caliente en Acción de Gracias o regalos para sus hijos en Navidad. Para obtener una lista de las despensas de sus alimentos, haga clic en www.ccab.org/pantries.html, para obtener una lista de sus sitios de las necesidades básicas, haga clic en www.ccab.org/Basic.html

Caridades Católicas locales son los siguientes: **Dorchester**, 617-506-6600; **El Centro del Cardenal**, 617-542-9292; **Centro Haitiano**, 617-506-6600; **Centro Labouré (sur de Boston)**, 617-268-9670; **Somerville**, 617-625-1920; **Caridades Católicas del Norte**, 781-593-2312; **Merrimack Valley (Lowell)**, 978-452-1421; **Brockton**, 508-587-0815; **Milford**, 508-478-9632.

Salvation Army: Vivienda y Servicios a los Desamparados
Hogares de grupo, refugios de emergencia y centros de vivienda transitoria proporcionar vivienda sobre una base temporal para diversos períodos de tiempo. Ellos:

- servir a las personas sin hogar, proporcionando comida y alojamiento durante la noche.
- proporcionar educación, orientación y servicios de formación profesional a las personas sin hogar e indigentes y familias durante largos períodos.

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- abordar cuestiones a largo plazo específicas de los jóvenes para quienes el cuidado familiar no es deseable o no está disponible. Educación, orientación y atención de la salud y la formación específica de tratar de satisfacer las necesidades de los grupos, como las adolescentes embarazadas, menores de edad emancipados, y bajo la tutela del tribunal de menores.
- dirección específica de salud o sociales impulsados por las necesidades depoblaciones específicas.
- Programas para la familia de servicios de ayuda a las familias e individuos necesitados con alimentos de emergencia, vivienda, ayuda para servicios públicos y otras necesidades temporales.

Salvation Army programas varían según las necesidades locales. Para obtener información sobre programas específicos y ubicaciones, póngase en contacto con su distribuidor local Salvation Army Corps Community Center haciendo una búsqueda por código postal en el campo de ubicación de su sitio web en www.salvationarmyusa.org

Si no puede encontrar una ubicación cuerpo cerca de usted, llame a la Sede de las divisiones de Massachusetts 339-502-5900 durante horas de oficina regulares. Sus operadores serán capaces de dirigirlo al lugar correcto donde se va a tratar de ayudarle.

ABCD en Boston tal vez le proporciona dinero inicial para el depósito de seguridad en el pago de alquiler del primer mes o fondo para el alquiler retrasado, a individuos desamparados y familias en riesgo que viven en refugios, cuando hay disponibilidad de fondos. ABCD ayuda a la gente a buscar viviendas y obtenerlas subvencionadas. Además, ayuda a prevenir la indigencia proporcionando servicios para la prevención de desalojo, tales como mediación y negociación entre el arrendador y arrendatario, información legal y referencia, y recolección de fondos. El número telefónico es 617-348-6347.

Traveler's Aid Family Services (Servicios Familiares de Traveler's Aid), teléfono 617-542-7286, cuenta con un programa limitado para ofrecer refugios de emergencia de corto plazo a familias de Boston que están en crisis. También hay un programa de prevención de indigencia para ayudar a pagar alquileres retrasados, si hay fondos disponibles.

Llame para averiguar los requisitos de elegibilidad. Los trabajadores están disponibles para el servicio de transporte sin cita.

Otros servicios se proporcionan con cita y mediante llamadas telefónicas, de lunes a viernes, de 8:30 am a 4:30 pm. Hay disponibilidad de traducción en español. **Municipios:** Algunas organizaciones operan a nivel municipal. Puede encontrar sus números en la guía telefónica o marcando el 411. Entre estas organizaciones están las iglesias locales y clubes cívicos, incluyendo Kiwanis, Elks, Lions, Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Quota, Jaycees y los Masons.

Ayuda para los veteranos

Los veteranos pueden obtener alguna ayuda en Servicios a Veteranos de su área. El Departamento de Asuntos de los Veteranos (Department of Veterans Affairs) del Gobierno Federal ha publicado un libro que enumera los beneficios: Beneficios Federales para Veteranos y Dependientes (Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents). Visite al sitio web: www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

Viviendas e indigencia

Si vive en indigencia o está en riesgo de ser indigente. . .

Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunal en Massachusetts ofrece servicios y dinero a personas quienes están en riesgo de ser indigentes a través de las oficinas de la División de Estabilización de Viviendas (Division of Housing Stabilization) ubicadas en las oficinas del DTA. El Departamento evalúa su situación y trata de ayudarle a desarrollar un plan para evitar la indigencia. Si está embarazada o una familia con niños menores de 21 años y necesitan un refugio, un trabajador le ayudará. Si usted es un adulto no acompañado, puede solicitar una cama refugio directamente a través de un proveedor de alojamiento. Una lista en línea de los proveedores de vivienda para adultos se puede encontrar en línea en <http://www.mahomeless.org/get-help/single-adult>.

HomeBASE “Asistencia para su familiar” (Household Assistance)

Household Assistance es parte del programa HomeBase nueva para las familias sin hogar con niños y mujeres embarazadas que no tienen lugar para quedarse. Para obtener asistencia de los hogares, es necesario solicitar y ser elegible para Asistencia de Emergencia (AE) refugio. Asistencia Hogar es de hasta \$ 4,000 al año. El dinero es para ayudar a su familia mudarse a mantener o vivienda a corto plazo. El \$ 4,000 puede pagar los gastos para que usted pueda trasladarse a otro lugar, para ayudarle a quedarse con alguien que usted conoce, o para ayudarle a quedarse donde está ahora. DHCD hará que estos pagos a una empresa de propietario de utilidad, o la empresa de mover o en formas de pago para su anfitrión - no para usted.

Asistencia del hogar no puede ser la respuesta correcta para su familia. Usted todavía puede obtener refugio EA si usted lo necesita y su familia cumple con las estándares actuales de elegibilidad para el programa de EA.

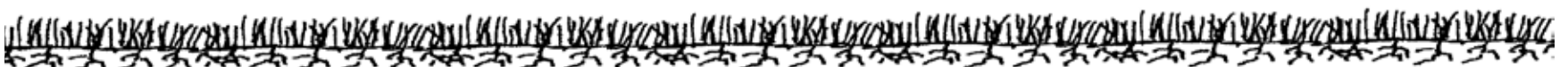
Si usted va a un refugio, obtendrá ayuda para la búsqueda de vivienda que usted puede permitirse por más tiempo. Es posible que pueda recibir ayuda HomeBase Alquiler tarde, pero sólo dentro de las primeras 32 semanas de quedarse en un refugio.

¿Estás seguro de 4.000 dólares es bastante dinero para mantener a su familia en la vivienda por un año completo? Si el conjunto \$ 4.000 que se gasta antes de finales de los 12 meses y se acaba sin hogar de nuevo, usted no será capaz de obtener ayuda más de HomeBase para el resto del período de 12 meses, la normativa vigente.

¿Cómo va a afectar a los hogares de asistencia a la familia te vas a quedar con el? Arrendador de su anfitrión debe estar de acuerdo que su familia pueda estar antes de Asistencia de los hogares será aprobado. Puede que tenga que ser añadido al contrato de arrendamiento. Alquiler de su anfitrión puede ir para arriba. Si la asistencia de los hogares paga la totalidad de la renta de su anfitrión o los servicios públicos, que podría ser considerado como ingresos para su anfitrión. Su anfitrión puede obtener menos beneficios, tales TAFDC, EAEDC, o SSI.

Usted puede presentar una apelación si cree que se vieron obligados a tomar o negado injustamente la asistencia de los hogares. Póngase en contacto con los servicios jurídicos o de otra persona de su confianza para el asesoramiento o ayuda con su apelación.

Si usted tiene preguntas acerca de Homebase, usted puede ...a la página 35



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llamar DCHD del destinatario Línea de Servicios: 1-877-418-3308. También puede llamar a la Coalición de Massachusetts para los Sin Techo: 781-595-7570. Para encontrar su programa local de servicios legales, llame al Centro de Apoyo Legal y de Recursos: 1-800-342-5297 o vaya a www.MassLegalHelp.org/find-legal-ayuda

Asistencia Residencial para Familias en Transición (RAFT) Programa ser Indigente

Si usted y su familia están en peligro inminente de quedar sin hogar, usted puede ser elegible para la Asistencia Residencial para Familias en Transición (RAFT), un programa financiado por el estado sin techo prevención administrado por el Departamento de Massachusetts de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario (DHCD). Para el año fiscal estatal 2013, que comenzó el 1 de julio, 1012, RAFT es financiado en \$ 8,760,000. Esto significa que RAFT es de nuevo un programa a nivel estatal! El programa está dirigido a familias con niños menores de 21 años y / o mujeres embarazadas con ingresos iguales o inferiores al 50% del ingreso medio del área, con al menos el 90% de los fondos para las familias en o por debajo del 30% del ingreso promedio del área. Las familias elegibles pueden recibir hasta \$ 4,000 en un período de 12 meses para pagar los gastos de evitar la falta de vivienda o salir rápidamente sin hogar. En el área de Boston, RAFT es administrado por el área metropolitana de Boston Housing Partnership, 617-425-6700

El número telefónico del Housing Consumer Education Center (Centro de Educación para los Consumidores de Viviendas) de la Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (Asociación de Viviendas del Área Metropolitana de Boston) es 617-425-6700. Si usted es propietario de una vivienda y quiere hablar con el consejero de ejecución hipotecaria, contacte a Stephen Freeman, al teléfono 617-425-6761. Existen 9 centros en Massachusetts. Puede localizarlos en la web, www.masshousinginfo.org.

El HCEC proporciona asistencia financiera limitada cuando esté disponible (como RAFT), y pueden ayudar con otros tipos de recursos de vivienda y defensa durante todo el año. Hay más información en su sitio web, www.mbhp.org.

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, teléfono 781-595-7570, brinda información y defensa, además de cabildear mejores políticas para familias, adultos y jóvenes no acompañados, que están en riesgo o están viviendo en la indigencia. En Boston, la Coalición aboga por el trabajo con los centros de salud comunitarios, escuelas públicas, y los programas de intervención temprana para proporcionar servicios de prevención de personas sin hogar. La Coalición también opera un banco de muebles para los hogares de salir sin hogar en la vivienda. La Coalición de Massachusetts para las Personas sin Hogar se encuentra a 15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901. Su página web es: www.mahomeless.org. Ellos tienen un montón de información y materiales allí.

Residentes de Boston que no tienen donde permanecer después de las 5:00pm y durante los fines de semana pueden llamar a la Línea de Emergencia del Alcalde de Boston, al teléfono 617-635-4500, para información y referencia. Durante los días de la semana, llame a la Comisión de Refugio de Emergencia (Emergency Shelter Commission), al teléfono 617-635-4507, para información

y referencia. Familias con hijos y mujeres embarazadas pueden solicitar los beneficios de refugio a través de la oficina del DTA ubicada en el 2201 Dudley Square, Roxbury, teléfono 617-989-6000.

Muebles/artículos de hogar gratuitos

Mass Coalition for the Homeless maneja un banco de muebles para familias e individuos que se están moviendo a una vivienda permanente. Califican aquellas personas que han estado desamparadas durante los 90 días anteriores. El banco de muebles también proporciona frazadas cuando hay disponibilidad. Para solicitar ayuda, se necesita la referencia de una agencia. En Boston, llame al Programa de Asistencia de Donaciones (Donations Assistance Program), al teléfono 781-595-7570, ext. 11. El personal de la Coalición monta el mueble al camión pero la organización no proporciona camiones. Están ubicados a 15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901. Su sitio web es www.mahomeless.org/programs/furniture-bank

Craigslist tiene muebles y otros artículos gratuitos en línea. La lista es por región. Haga clic en “cosas gratuitas (free stuff).”

Atención a la Salud

MassHealth

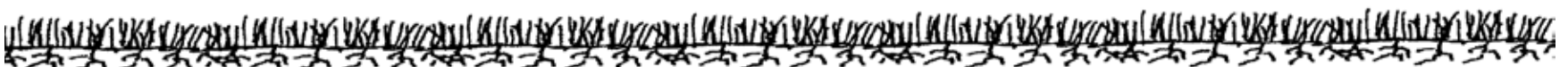
MassHealth es como Medicaid en Massachusetts. MassHealth es un programa público de seguro de salud para personas con bajos o medianos ingresos que viven en Massachussts. Si recibe TAFDC, SSI o EAEDC está automáticamente elegible por MassHealth, y personas discapacitados están elegibles. Llame al teléfono 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997) y pedir por un formulario para calificar por MassHealth. Visite al sitio web www.massresources.org. Para encontrar un médico, dentista o al otro proveedor de medicina, llame al teléfono 1-800-841-2900 (TTY 1-800-497-4648) por MassHealth Customer Service.

Commonwealth Care

Hay opciones diferentes para planes de Commonwealth Care, y estas opciones dependen a su nivel de ingreso en comparación con el nivel de la pobreza. El pago de la prima depende de su ingreso en comparación con el nivel de la pobreza

La solicitud se llama Medical Benefit Request (Solicitud de Beneficio Médico) o MBR. Cuando usted manda la solicitud a MassHealth, se le inscribe al mejor programa a su alcance, el cual es posiblemente Commonwealth Care. Luego, MassHealth le manda una notificación, mencionándole el programa que usted obtiene. Puede obtener la solicitud en su centro de salud u hospital o puede llamar a la Línea de Ayuda de Health Care For All (Atención a la Salud para Todos), al teléfono 1-800-272-4232 para obtener ayuda en el llenado de la solicitud por teléfono. Si usted tiene derecho a Commonwealth Care, puede llamar al teléfono 1-877-MA-ENROLL para escoger el plan de salud o visite la web, www.macommonwealthcare.org. Para ayuda en el escrito del formulario, llame al número 800-792-4355 o escribe un email a helpmeapply@bmchp.org

Health Safety Net (Red de Seguridad de Salud) (anteriormente llamado Uncompensated Care Pool/Fondo Común No Compensado ...a la página 36



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para Servicios Médicos o Free Care Pool/Fondo Común para Servicios Médicos Gratuitos) es un programa que ofrece atención gratuita o a bajo costo en hospitales y centros comunales de salud a residentes elegibles de Massachusetts, dependiendo del ingreso bruto (ingreso antes de la deducción de impuestos), el tamaño de la familia y el tipo de seguro de salud que ya tienen. Llame a su centro comunal de salud u hospital para más información o para una solicitud. El monto de cobertura depende del tipo de seguro de salud que usted tiene. Para obtener más información, llame al Help Desk a 1-877-910-2100.

MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach ofrece información de prescripción y referencias a residentes de Massachusetts sin costo. Llame al teléfono 1-866-633-1617, de lunes a viernes, para obtener información sobre programas que proporcionan medicamentos con prescripción gratuita, o a costos reducidos, programas federales o estatales y ayuda para conseguir dichos medicamentos. El personal clínico, incluyendo docentes y estudiantes de la Universidad de Farmacia y Ciencias de la Salud de Massachusetts (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), revisa el perfil de medicación de la persona que llama para evaluar la posible interacción de medicamentos y darle información sobre alternativas terapéuticas y equivalentes genéricos. Este es un servicio gratuito ubicado en el campus en Worcester de la Universidad de Farmacia y Ciencias de la Salud de Massachusetts. Se atiende sin cita en el centro ubicado en el 25 Foster St., Worcester, MA. La información está disponible en muchos idiomas, incluyendo inglés, español, portugués, chino y vietnamita. Llame para obtener información o programar una cita durante el horario normal de trabajo. <http://www.massmedline.com>

¿Preguntas sobre atención a la salud?

Llame a la Línea de Ayuda de Health Care For All al teléfono 1-800-272-4232 o a Connector al teléfono 1-877-623-6767 (TTY: 1-877-623-7773 para personas con sordera parcial o total). Visite el sitio web Health Care for All: www.hcfama.org.

Atención a la salud para los indigentes

Programa de Boston Health Care for the Homeless (Atención a la Salud de Boston para las Personas Desamparadas) proporciona atención a la salud para hombres, mujeres y niños en clínicas, refugios en Boston, Centro Médico de Boston (Boston Medical Center) y el Hospital General de Massachusetts (Mass General Hospital). Tiene el Programa de Descanso (Respite Program) para individuos desamparados quienes no están tan enfermos como para ser hospitalizados pero demasiado enfermos para estar en la calle o en un refugio. Llame al teléfono 857-654-1000.

Equipos médicos para niños

Pass it On (Pásalo) proporciona equipos médicos pediátricos para niños discapacitados de hasta 22 años de edad, incluyendo sillas de ruedas, equipos para baño y artículos relacionados. Se entregará en cualquier lugar delimitado por la carretera 495. Aunque el equipo es gratuito, solicitan ayuda para pagar el transporte del equipo. Llame al teléfono 508-477-6966 o 1-800-267-6768. Su sitio web es www.passitonforkids.org

Ayuda de ropa para niños

Children's Clothing Exchange (Intercambio de Ropa de Niños), un programa de Solutions at Work (Soluciones en Función) está en el Roosevelt Towers Housing Complex, 391 Everteze Way, Cambridge, MA 02141. El número telefónico es 617-576-0039. Abierto los martes, miércoles y jueves, de 10:00 am a 4:00 pm y los segundos y cuartos sábados del mes, de 10:00 am a 4:00 pm.

Puede obtener ropa para niños, desde recién nacidos hasta 14 años. Tiene ropa de oficina para mujeres y hombres quienes están por entrar al trabajo, sólo con citas previas. También tiene zapatos y alguna ropa para niños mayores. Puede intercambiar ropa limpia y lista para ponerse que le ha quedado pequeña a sus hijos o puede donar su tiempo para trabajar en Exchange. No se necesita dinero. Las familias que están en crisis no tienen que hacer el intercambio en su primera visita. Hay disponibilidad de libros para niños, juguetes, carritos de bebés y sillas para vehículos gratuitos.

Tienen un gran espacio, el juego alegre que los niños son bienvenidos a utilizar mientras sus padres buscar artículos. También ofrecen artes libres y artesanías en el segundo y cuarto sábado del mes de 12:30 mayoría de la mañana hasta las 2:30 pm Los niños participantes de cambio de ropa son bienvenidos a unirse de forma gratuita. Otros son bienvenidos por una donación sugerida de \$ 10 por niño y / o la donación de ropa para niños.

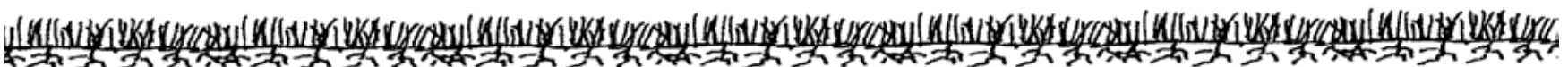
Su sitio web es <http://solutionsatwork.org/our-program/childrens-clothing-exchange>

Servicio Gremio Nacional de Abogados de Referencia de Abogados ofrece asistencia legal a menor asequible para personas de ingresos medios, haciendo coincidir los individuos con abogados. Todas las llamadas a este servicio, y hasta tres llamadas de remisión a abogados son libres. Ellos se encargan de discapacidad (incluyendo SSI y SSDI), criminal, la discriminación, el empleo, el derecho de familia, el propietario / arrendatario, inmigración, derechos civiles, litigio civil, lesiones personales, la quiebra, los bienes raíces y otras áreas del derecho. Los honorarios son a veces negociado sobre una base de caso por caso. Las referencias pueden ser colocados en Inglés o Español, y los abogados están disponibles que hablan una variedad de idiomas.

Su horario es de lunes a viernes, de 9:00 - 1:00. Llame al 617-227-7008. Las referencias pueden ser colocados en línea 24/7. Ellos sirven el área de Massachusetts. Información sobre temas legales y contactos para pro-bono asistencia legal se puede encontrar en su página web www.NLGLawyerreferralservice.org

Disability Law Center de Massachusetts, 617-723-8455 o 1-800-872-9992, brinda apoyo legal en temas de discapacidad a las personas en Massachusetts que tienen una amplia gama de discapacidades físicas, psiquiátricas, sensoriales y cognitivas. DLC atiende a personas que sufren discriminación, abuso o negligencia, o la negación de servicios a causa de su discapacidad. Ellos se encargan de la educación especial, los derechos y las condiciones de las instalaciones, el empleo, la vivienda y la votación. DLC no se ocupa de los problemas jurídicos generales tal. Obtener un divorcio, declaración de quiebra, o problemas de confianza y de bienes Están a 11 Beacon St. # 925, Boston, MA 02108. Su sitio web es www.dlc-ma.org.

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Ayuda legal gratuita o a bajo costo

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau (Oficina de Asistencia Legal de Harvard), teléfono 617-495-4408, fax 617-496-2687, proporciona servicios legales a personas de ingresos bajos sobre problemas de vivienda, (relaciones entre propietarios e inquilinos, viviendas públicas, viviendas protegidas, defensa de ejecución hipotecaria); derecho de la familia (violencia doméstica, divorcio, custodia, paternidad, manutención infantil doméstico); beneficios del gobierno (Seguro Social, beneficios de desempleo, beneficios de Veteranos, y el bienestar), y salarios y horas de los casos (incluidos los beneficios no pagados o mal pagados, y las horas extraordinarias) Atiende a la mayoría de las áreas de los condados de Middlesex o Suffolk. Está ubicada en el 23 Everett St., Cambridge, MA 02138. Está abierta de 9:00 am a 5:00 pm, de lunes a viernes. Llame para una cita.

National Lawyer's Guild (Asociación Nacional de Abogados) proporciona asistencia legal a personas de ingresos bajos y moderados, a través de su servicio de referencia. Maneja discapacidad (incluyendo SSI y SSDI), crimen, discriminación, empleo, derecho de familia, dueño/inquilino, inmigración, derechos civiles, litigio civil, lesión personal, quiebra, bienes inmuebles y otras áreas legales. El honorario es generalmente negociado en base a una escala ajustable. Se habla español y otros idiomas. Su horario de atención es de lunes a viernes, de 9:00 am a 4:00 pm. Llame al teléfono 617-227-7008. Está ubicada en el 14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108.

Ayuda disponible para inmigrantes

Greater Boston Legal Services, teléfono 617-371-1234, representa a los inmigrantes.

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (Coalición de Apoyo a Inmigrantes y Refugiados de Massachusetts, MIRA) proporciona entrenamiento, abogacía e información para promover los derechos y la integración de los inmigrantes y refugiados. Implican una membresía activa de 140 organizaciones. No proporcionan servicios a las personas, pero se puede referir a las personas a una de sus organizaciones miembros. Llame al teléfono 617-350-5480.

Irish Immigration Center (Centro Irlandés de Inmigración) cuenta con el Programa de Asistencia para Inmigración/ Ciudadanía (Immigration/Citizenship Assistance Program) que ofrece una variedad de servicios a todos los inmigrantes (**no solamente a personas de origen irlandés**), incluyendo información y referencia, servicios inmigratorios, asistencia para empleos, programa de cruce de culturas y defensa para el derecho de los inmigrantes. El centro, acreditado por el Departamento de Justicia (Department of Justice), tiene la capacidad de representar a las personas en entrevistas con dicho departamento. Está ubicado en el 100 Franklin St., planta baja, Boston, MA 02110, teléfono 617-542-7654. Para obtener más información, visite su sitio web <http://www.iiicenter.org/>

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Office (Oficina Católica de Amparo para Refugiados e Inmigrantes), teléfono 617-464-8100, ayuda a refugiados, asilados y personas de nacionalidad cubana y haitiana en libertad condicional (personas detenidas por el Departamento de Justicia de E.E.U.U. y actualmente liberadas bajo juramento). Sus servicios incluyen lo siguiente: asistencia en efectivo, asistencia en empleo, manejo de casos, clases

de inglés y referencias de servicios sociales. También realiza clases de ESOL (Inglés para Hablantes de Otras Lenguas). Los asilados pueden recibir servicios dentro del primer mes posterior a la obtención de su estatus de asilado y califican durante dicho mes para más servicios como asistencia en efectivo y servicios de empleo. Está ubicada en el 275 W. Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127.

Pair Project (Proyecto Par), teléfono 617-742-9296, proporciona asistencia legal gratuita a personas de ingresos bajos o sin ingresos que están buscando asilo. También proporciona asistencia a los detenidos por las agencias inmigratorias. Llame para una cita.

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (Centro Comunitario de Servicios Legales y Consejería), teléfono 617-661-1010, 1 West St., Cambridge, proporciona servicios legales y asesoría sobre problemas de la familia, discapacidad, inmigración y vivienda. Los servicios legales son gratuitos y el honorario para los servicios de asesoría se calcula en base a la escala ajustable. Los servicios son proporcionados por un pequeño equipo altamente cualificado y con más de 100 abogados bien formados, profesionales de salud mental, y otros defensores. Llame a la oficina para obtener información de los servicios específicos.

Ayuda para padres y madres bajo estrés

Parental Stress Line (Línea de Padres y Madres bajo Estrés) es una línea telefónica de emergencia sin costo para brindar apoyo a padres y madres que están bajo estrés. La línea está disponible durante las 24 horas del día, 7 días a la semana. Organiza grupos de apoyo para padres y madres, el cual es anónimo y confidencial. Llamar al teléfono 1-800-632-8188.

Educación Superior

TERI College Planning Center (Centro de Planificación Universitaria TERI) puede ayudarle a buscar becas si usted califica en términos de ingreso, seleccionar universidades, llenar solicitudes de admisión y ayuda financiera, obtener exención de matrícula universitaria y obtener asesoría para pagar la universidad. Usted puede hablar con un consejero, usar las computadoras para buscar becas y revisar los libros de recursos — todos los servicios son gratis.

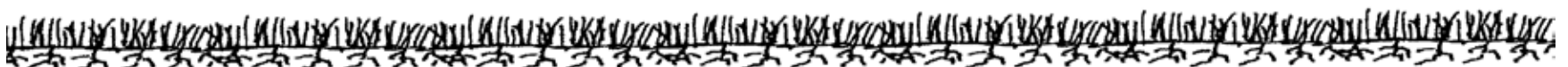
Hay 6 Centros de Oportunidad Educativa (Educational Opportunity Centers) en Massachussets. El número telefónico de Boston es 617-536-0200 (en la primera planta de la Biblioteca Pública de Boston). Está usualmente abierto de 9:00 am a 6:30 pm de lunes a jueves y de 9:00 am a 3:30 pm los viernes y sábados. Para otras áreas, llame al número principal 617-536-0200.

Urban College of Boston (UCB) El Colegio Urbano de Boston “UCB” es un programa de 2 años, que ofrece apoyo y educación a prepararse para una carrera o completar un título universitario. UCB está en ABCD (Acción para Desarrollo de la Comunidad de Boston), 178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111, tele: 617-348-6325.

UCB ofrece servicios para cuidar a los niños, referencia para la salud, asesoramiento y servicios para continuar un trabajo, cuando los estudiantes están en el programa “UCB” a si mismo. También ofrece crédito universitario para aprender a un trabajo y desarrollo personal, y ofrece programas de prácticas. UCB están autorizados para ofrecer becas de Pell Grants a estudiantes que tienen elegibilidad.

The Patsy Takemoto Mink Scholarship distribuya becas de \$2,000

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para ayudar a mujeres que necesitan asistencia para pagar por un programa de su propio educación. Visite el sitio web <http://www.patsyminkfoundation.org/edsupport.html> . Se aceptarán solicitudes a partir de Primavera 2013.

Educación y Entrenamiento

Entrenamiento en educación de niños de temprana edad, salud comunal, climatización y “empleos verdes”

ABCD ofrece entrenamiento en estos campos. Llame al teléfono 617-357-6000 x6750.

El programa de climatización WAGE (ahorra energía con climatización) enseña maneras de climatización y ayuda a los estudiantes para encontrar empleos. El programa de Empleos Verdes enseña maneras técnicas “verdes” como el reciclaje. El programa está Lunes a Viernes, 8 AM – 4:30 PM por 7 semanas.

St. Mary’s Women and Children’s Center (Centro de St. Mary para Mujeres y Niños), teléfono 617-436-8600, 90 Cushing Avenue, Dorchester, MA, proporciona capacitación para trabajos, habilidad en informática, educación básica para adultos y preparación para GED. Su Centro de Aprendizaje para Mujeres (Women’s Learning Center) instruye hasta 20 estudiantes al mismo tiempo en Educación Básica para Adultos (Adult Basic Education, ABE) y preparación para una serie de exámenes de Desarrollo Educativo General (General Educational Development, GED). El programa es altamente flexible — ofreciendo admisión rodante y la opción de instrucciones a tiempo parcial y completo, y las clases son diseñadas de manera que satisfaga las necesidades individuales del estudiante.

Project Hope — Programas gratuitos de capacitación en atención a la salud

Proyecto Esperanza ofrece una educación básica de adultos de más de 80 mujeres de bajos ingresos al año. Capacitan a 30 mujeres de bajos ingresos al año para las carreras de cuidado de niños a través de la Empresa de Child Family Business Care.

El Project Hope (Proyecto Hope) ofrece 3 programas gratuitos de capacitación con Partners HealthCare, Spaulding Rehabilitation, Brigham and Women’s, Mass General Hospital, y and Tufts Health Plan. Visite al sitio web: <http://www.prohope.org/openhouse.htm#P90#P90>

Socios en el Desarrollo de Carrera y Fuerza de Trabajo (Partners in Career and Workforce Development, PCWD)

Un programa gratis de 6 semanas de capacitación de preparación con Partners HealthCare que se enfoca en habilidades de servicio al cliente, elaboración del currículum y habilidades de entrevista. PCWD está diseñado para individuos interesados en empleo de nivel principiante en uno de los hospitales de Partners. Es un programa de entrenamiento sin salario, de lunes a viernes, de 9:00 am a 5:00 pm, y un programa que se aprueba de DTA y Sección 30. www.partners.org/careers/default.asp

Socios Comunitarios en Profesiones de la Salud (Community Partners in Health Professions, CPHP)

Para individuos que desean una carrera en atención a la salud pero

que no tienen las habilidades necesarias. CPHP tiene un énfasis fuerte en académico, comunicación, profesionalismo, y habilidades en informática. Es un programa de preempleo de 10 semanas sin salario que se lleva a cabo de lunes a jueves, de 9:00 am a 4:00 pm. Los viernes son dedicados a manejo de casos. Es un programa que se aprueba de DTA.

Programa de Preparación Profesional (PREP)

PREP es un programa que puede mejorar las habilidades de trabajo para personas en nuestra comunidad. PREP encuentra dos veces por la semana y durante 4 semanas. Participantes que completan el programa pueden recibir recomendaciones por el BWH Community Partnership Program (siguiente), CPHP o otros programas.

Para calificar para estos programas, los aplicantes deben:

- Atender a una reunión informativa (http://www.prohope.org/openhouse_faq.htm)
- tener una diploma de bachiller/colegio o equivalente
- hablar, escribir y entender inglés; pasar evaluación en lectura, lenguaje y computación
- hacer chequeo de CORI
- tener al menos 1 año completo de experiencia laboral con 1 empleador
- ser capaz de atender y completar la capacitación diurno durante 6 semanas.

Project 90 (P90)

El Proyecto 90 es un programa de formación profesional gratis de 12 semanas. Los participantes reciben ayuda para aplicar por empleos y, además, ayuda para aplicar por programas de entrenamiento en especialidades. Visite el sitio web www.prohope.org y complete el formulario en el siguiente sitio www.prohope.org/openhouse_form.htm. Llame a 617-442-1880 x218 si tenga preguntas del programa.

Condiciones a participar en Project 90

- Su edad es más que 18 años
- No vive en un hogar permanente
- Tiene las ganas de trabajar, estudiar, tiempo para participar y interés en este programa
- Puede hablar y escribir en inglés
- Tiene la capaz para trabajar legalmente en los EEUU
- Está sobrio/a por más que 90 días.

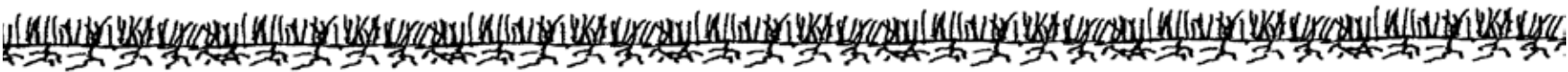
Si tiene interés: visite a www.prohope.org/openhouse_faq.htm y completar el formulario de inscripción en www.prohope.org/openhouse_form.htm.

Si tiene preguntas, llame al 617-442-1880 ext. 218 para dejar un mensaje. Un miembro del personal le devolverá la llamada.

YMCA Training, Inc. (Programa para aprender un nuevo trabajo con YMCA)

El programa es de 5 meses, y ofrece prácticas con oficinas médicas, de seguros, bancos y trabajos de secretaría. Hay asociaciones entre el programa de YMCA y compañías Bank New York Mellon, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Medical Center, City of Boston, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Joslin Diabetes Center, One Beacon Insurance, Pilgrim Insurance, Sovereign Bank, Suffolk University y Tufts Medical Center.

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Hay otros servicios también: para pronunciar inglés (ESOL), usar la computadora, matemáticas, escritura y ropa para entrevistas. También puede recibir ayuda en encontrar una carrera y referencias para servicios sociales.

El programa está abierto lunes a viernes, 9 AM a 4 PM. Necesita tener un diploma del colegio o GED, y necesita vestir profesionalmente.

Planificación familiar de emergencia

Si ha tenido sexo sin protección o piensa que su método de planificación familiar ha fracasado, puede usar la “píldora de la mañana siguiente” (“morning-after-pill”) para prevenir el embarazo. Esta no es una píldora abortiva como la RU-486. La píldora se llama Preven y Plan B, y efectivamente evita el 89 % de los embarazos si se la usa correctamente. Se la debe tomar lo más pronto posible después del sexo sin protección, dentro de 5 días. Si usted es sexualmente activa, es recomendable tener esta píldora a mano por si la necesita. Simplemente solicite a su fármaco la Plan B One-Step o Next Choice. Ahora está disponible sin prescripción para adultos, pero personas menores de 17 necesitan una prescripción. Si su doctor o el hospital se niegan a darle una prescripción, llame a la Línea de Anticoncepción de Emergencia, 888-not-2-lat (888-668-2528) o visite el Sitio Web sobre Anticoncepción de Emergencia, ec.princeton.edu. En el sitio web encontrará el nombre de las farmacias en su cercanía donde puede obtener la píldora.

Más información útil

La Oficina de Servicios a Destinatarios del DTA (DTA Recipient Services Office) es muy atenta en proporcionar información sobre las políticas y a qué tiene usted derecho. Llame al teléfono 1-800-445-6004.

Los **reglamentos del DTA** están disponibles en la web: www.state.ma.us/dta.

Beneficios para personas que viven en Massachussets.

Visite el sitio web www.massresources.org para aprender más.

Los **reglamentos de beneficios para cuidado de niños** y otras informaciones están disponibles en la web en www.mass.gov/eec, la cual es el sitio web correspondiente a la Oficina de Servicios del Cuidado de Niños (Office of Child Care Services) del estado.

Guía de Regreso a Casa: Una Guía de Recursos para Ex-Ofensores que Están Regresando a las Comunidades del Gran de Boston (Coming Home Directory: A Resource Directory for Ex-Offenders Returning to Greater Boston Communities) es un libro exhaustivo de recursos publicado por el Crime and Justice Institute (Instituto de Crimen y Justicia). Está disponible en línea en www.cominghomedirectory.org. La guía es publicada por el Crime and Justice Institute, teléfono 617-482-2520, ext. 130.

Guía de Recursos para Personas Mayores (Elder Resource Guide) es publicado por el Consejo de Brookline sobre Envejecimiento (Brookline Council on Aging) y el Centro para Mayores de Edad de Brookline (Brookline Senior Center). Está disponible en línea en www.brooklinema.gov. Haga clic en “Departments (Departamentos),”

“Council on Aging (Consejo sobre Envejecimiento),” “Latest News (Últimas Noticias),” y “Elder Resource Guide (Guía de Recursos para Personas Mayores).”

¿Tiene un Récord Criminal? ¿Tiene problema en encontrar trabajo o vivienda debido a su CORI? Si usted tiene CORI y necesita información sobre trabajos, vivienda, sellado de su récord, errores en su CORI u otros problemas, llame al Centro de Ayuda Legal y Recursos (Legal Advocacy and Resource Center), al teléfono 617-603-1700. Para más información sobre las leyes pertinentes a CORI, visite el sitio web, www.masslegalhelp.org/cori.

Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy Benefits Access Line (Línea de Acceso a Beneficios de la Alianza de Massachusetts sobre Embarazos de Adolescentes), es para padres y madres adolescentes y las personas que trabajan con ellos. Le contestará preguntas acerca de asistencia social, cupones de alimentos, viviendas, cuidado de niños y otros servicios en su área para los cuales los adolescentes y sus hijos posiblemente califiquen. Llame al teléfono 1-800-645-3750 ext. 115.

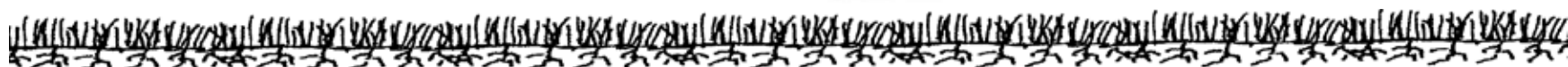
Jane Doe, Inc. Una línea de emergencia patrocinada por Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (Coalición de Massachusetts contra el Asalto Sexual y la Violencia Intrafamiliar) ayuda a personas que fueron asaltadas sexualmente o que huyen de la violencia intrafamiliar. Llame al teléfono 617-248-0922.

Red Nacional de Fondos para el Aborto

Si necesita tener un aborto, pero no tiene fondos para pagar, La Red podría ayudarle. Visite al sitio web: www.nnaf.org

Gracias a Melanie Malherbe of Greater Boston Legal Services, Kelly Hurley de Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Pat Baker del Food Stamp Coalition, Roxanne Reddington-Wilde de ABCD, The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, y Health Care for All, por su ayuda.

Nota: Hemos revisado esta información cuidadosamente y creemos que está correcta a la fecha escrita, enero 2013. Sin embargo, algunas veces las cosas cambian. A veces, las agencias agotan el dinero o cambian sus políticas. Antes de emitir otra edición, revisaremos de nuevo la información. ¿Así que subscríbase al Survival News para obtener los más recientes puntos claves para sobrevivir! Los Puntos Claves para Sobrevivir fueron compilados por Betty Reid Mandell. Si tiene preguntas acerca de la información, o si tiene puntos claves útiles para sobrevivir, puede contactarla por teléfono llamando al 617-327-4219 o enviando correo electrónico a mmandell@curry.edu.



Dona a los Sobrevivientes, Inc. Visite el sitio web www.survivorsinc.org.

NOTICIAS DE SUPERVIVENCIA

Volumen 25, Número 1

...las voces de las mujeres de bajos ingresos

¡TENEMOS 25!

¡Así es, Survival News cumple 25 años este año! Somos el diario de noticias más antiguo, continuamente publicado contra la pobreza en los EEUU. Y aunque no lo creas, todas nuestras fundadoras: Dottie Stevens, Betty Reid Mandell, Diane Dujon y Claire Cummings ¡siguen todavía involucradas en la publicación de este periódico único, original y premiado! Sin ninguna oficina y prácticamente sin mano de obra, nos hemos unido todas para publicar este “¡Me encanta este periódico!” cada año dependiendo de las donaciones, contribuciones y aportes que podamos asegurar.

Nuestras mesas de cocina y comedor han sido la ubicación central de nuestras “maquetas”, planes, cortes y pegados que van en cada periódico. Empezando con los “blueboards”, navajas y ceras calientes y graduando el programa de publicaciones en la computadora, de Pagemaker One a Pagemaker Seven y más, literalmente cientos de mujeres de bajos ingresos y sus aliados han escrito los artículos, columnas, poesías, y dando o escribiendo los perfiles personales, sacando fotos y entregando los dibujos, tiras cómicas y obras de arte, y por supuesto nuestras Pistas de Supervivencia, que han aparecido en nuestras páginas en los últimos 25 años (y contando).

Pocas veces ha habido algo nada más que el trabajo original, y \$25 eran siempre, (y de alguna manera milagrosa), pagados por las presentaciones de mujeres de bajos ingresos. Nuestro primer editor y todas las editoras han sido coeditoras, ya que cada edición requiere de muchas manos, eran Betty Betty Reid Mandell, seguida de Claire Cummings, Claire La Pointe, Jackie Dee King, Linda Carney Goodrich y ahora, nuestra editora real, Dottie Stevens, quien es el alma y guardia de la puerta, que están siempre abiertas, ¡y nuestra llama por los 25 años enteros! Gracias, Dottie!

Los aspectos más destacados de

nuestro cuarto de siglo, son demasiados para enumerar aquí pero incluirían: Número Uno – ¡Sólo el logro de completar y repartir el periódico por lo menos de una a cuatro veces al año durante 25 años! A finales de los años 80 nos incorporamos como Survivors, Inc., para convertirnos en una organización sin fines de lucro con el fin de recibir subvenciones que nos obligo a ser más que una revista de noticias y a crear proyectos que muevan a las mujeres fuera de la pobreza.

El primero de estos fue The Jericho Project que derrocó las paredes entre los beneficiarios de asistencia social y los trabajadores sociales en una serie de talleres al principio de los años 90; La publicación en 1996 de la segunda edición de For Crying Out Loud: Women’s Poverty in the United States, que ganó un premio internacional como el mejor libro de la justicia social en los EEUU, con artículos de Dottie, Diane, Claire y Betty y fue editado por Diane; Entrenamiento en computadoras; Entrenamiento para la Preparación de tributos por ingresos devengados; Entrenamiento de la escritura de subvenciones; La extraordinaria creación por Claire’s de la exposición de arte de fotos The Art of Survival: Documenting A Movement, A Twenty Year Retrospective of Dottie Stevens’ Photographs con su mural de cuatro paneles, “River of Protest”, que ha viajado por todas partes de la Galería de la Biblioteca de Newbury College donde se estrenó, a la Biblioteca Pública de Brockton,

El UMass College of Public and Community Service, El U.S. Social Forum de — en Detroit, MI, a su exposición actual menor en el Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative en Roxbury, MA; el apoyo a las United Nations Declaration Of Human Rights Cities, incluso el respaldo del Boston City Council; el honor de haber sido seleccionado recientemente para contribuir papeles históricos de nuestra organización a la Colección de Sophia Smith de Smith College, el archivo de la historia femenina más viejo en los Estados Unidos; y finalmente, el apoyo constante formal e informal a mujeres de bajos recursos- o sin ingresos y sus aliados en la lucha por la justicia social y económica, que incluyen muchos esfuerzos exitosos para aumentar los subsidios, especialmente para mujeres y niños que sufren en la pobreza. Hemos tenido nuestros momentos bajos cuando pensábamos que no podríamos seguir adelante, pero siempre, siempre, hasta ahora, hemos mantenido nuestra misión, nuestro compromiso y nuestro espíritu y ¡hemos llegado a esta gran meta inesperada juntas! Estamos orgullosas de estar aquí y agradecidas por todos nuestros seguidores en todos estos años.

Gracias a Dea Dea Huffstutler y Ricca Fischer por su generosa contribución de esta traducción. Estamos muy agradecidos! Muchas gracias!

**PUNTOS CLAVES
PARA SOBREVIVIR**

