



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

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Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance Receives Boston Foundation Grant to Expand Housing First Efforts to End Homelessness

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) has been awarded a grant of \$40,000 by the Boston Foundation for an initiative to address chronic homelessness, MHSA Executive Director Joe Finn said today.

“This generous grant from the Boston Foundation will allow MHSA to take steps to ease the plight of the chronically homeless, a group that is also the costliest population of homeless individuals” said Finn. “We are grateful to the Boston Foundation, a true partner in our effort to advance an approach to homelessness that is effective, cost-efficient and humane.”

The grant, entitled *Beyond Home & Healthy for Good: An Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness*, will allow advocacy for and development of policy and practice that will reduce barriers to health care for the poorest citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, homeless individuals. It will advance a Housing First approach to chronic homelessness. Housing First is a strategy that places homeless individuals directly into permanent housing and provides them with an array of supportive services including medical and mental health care, substance abuse treatment programs, case management and vocational and life skills training. The *Home & Healthy for Good* program has provided housing and supportive services to more than 250 chronically homeless individuals since its inception.

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, with assets of over \$964 million. In 2007, the Foundation and its donors made more than \$92 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of more than \$155 million. The Foundation is made up of nearly 900 separate charitable funds, established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener and sponsor of special initiatives designed to address the community’s and the region’s most pressing challenges. For more information about the Boston Foundation, visit www.tbf.org or call (617) 338-1700.

About Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) public policy advocacy organization, was established in 1988 by Greater Boston homeless providers and citizens seeking to create a coordinated strategy to end homelessness. MHSA represents 88 community-based agencies operating more than 250 programs statewide that serve more than 98 percent of all homeless individuals in Massachusetts. Through strategic partnerships formed with government, private philanthropy, service providers, homeless individuals and business, MHSA works to ensure that homelessness does not become a permanent part of the social landscape. For more information visit www.mhsa.net.

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