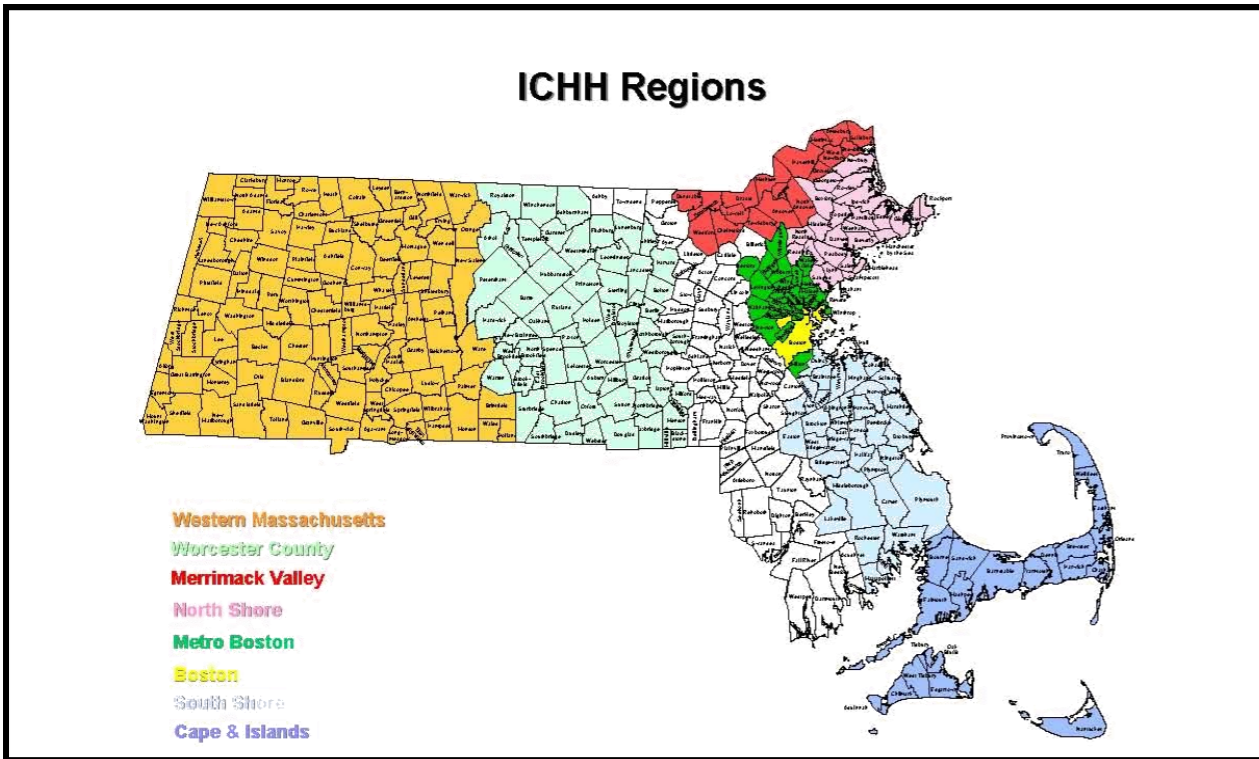


Regional Innovations to End Homelessness

On December 16, 2008, the Patrick-Murray Administration awarded \$8 million to eight regional pilot networks around the state. The networks will help better coordinate, integrate and implement innovative services focused on securing permanent housing options for homeless individuals and families and ultimately reduce the need for emergency shelter. Triage and assessment systems, flexible subsidies, early warning prevention, Housing First and coordinated case management will be the focus of these pilots. The below map shows each regional network.



Look inside for more information on the regional networks and how you can get involved.

MHSA Young Professionals Group Presents:

"Networking to End Homelessness in Massachusetts: Real Progress, Real Solutions."

**An exclusive conversation with Bob Pulster
Executive Director of the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing
and Homelessness**

"The entire Patrick-Murray Administration is committed to finding ways to help families and individuals stay housed and help those who are homeless find permanent housing."
-- Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray



Brief Background of the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness:

Governor Deval Patrick issued Executive Order No. 492 on November 18, 2007 that reinstated the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH). Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray chairs the Council, which will implement the recommendations of the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness. Co-chaired by State Representative Byron Rushing and Department of Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Tina Brooks, the Commission has called for a new statewide Housing First approach that will end homelessness in the Commonwealth by 2013.

ICHH Working Groups

Due to the complexity of the issue of homelessness, the ICHH has formed eight "Working Groups" related to housing and homelessness. In an effort to foster cross departmental collaboration, these groups are made up of more than 200 state employees from different government agencies. The eight groups are: Housing Needs and Supply, Uniform Assessment Tool, Policy and Regulations, Civic Engagement, Asset Development, Homeless Prevention Resources, Housing Stabilization and Support Services and Data and Evaluation. The Working Groups will be making their recommendations to the ICHH in the first quarter of 2009.

See back page for more information on ICHH.

What you can do to end homelessness: Be compassionate and think critically

Educate yourself and others about the problem

- **Become a member of MHSA** or other advocacy groups focused on specific homeless subpopulations that you care about (individuals, families, children, etc.) This is a great way to stay on top of homeless policy issues throughout the state. You will receive eNewsletters, legislative alerts, invitations to conferences and other information about strides made in ending homelessness in Massachusetts.
- **Read about homelessness.** One place to start: *Beside the Golden Door: Policy, Politics, and the Homeless* by James D. Wright, Beth A. Rubin, and Joel A. Devine.
- **Share what you have learned with others.** Talk about it with your family, friends and colleagues.



Become involved in outcome-based initiatives

- **Think of your time and money as investments.** Ask the tough questions of any agency you choose to invest in – what is it doing to solve the problem of homelessness? Examine your charitable giving strategies and gear them toward new and innovative solutions that work to end homelessness.

Start locally

- **Are there any homelessness task forces in your neighborhood, town, city or faith community?** Get involved!
- **Engage your local legislators.** Go to www.wheredoivotema.com to find out who your legislators are. Tell them you support funding for programs that will solve, not simply manage, homelessness.
- **Be critical about the way your tax dollars are spent.** Is your town or city investing in solutions to homelessness?
- **Contact your local media.** Write to your local paper and other media to let others know that homelessness is a problem that can and should be solved.

Get involved with an ICHH Regional Network near you

- **Each regional network** will seek civic involvement as it shapes its innovations to end homelessness. Contact the individuals below for more information about what you can do to help!

<u>Region</u>	<u>Convening Agency/Contact Person</u>
Boston	Department of Neighborhood Development Elizabeth Doyle edoyle.dnd@cityofboston.gov
Metro Boston	Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership Mary Doyle Mary.Doyle@mbhp.org
North Shore	North Shore Housing Action Group Beth Hogan bhogan4079@aol.com
Merrimack Valley	Community Teamwork Inc. Ed Cameron ecameron@comteam.org
South Shore	United Way of Greater Plymouth County Joyce Tavon JoyceTavon@uwgpc.org
Cape and Islands	Housing Assistance Corporation Beth Albert balbert@barnstablecounty.org
Worcester County	City of Worcester Tom Gregory GregoryT@ci.worcester.ma.us
Western Mass.	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Gerry McCafferty GMcCafferty@springfieldcityhall.com

Remember: *With a few simple steps, you **can** have an impact on ending homelessness in Massachusetts.*

MHSA is happy to help you with any of these activities.

Please feel free to contact Erin Donohue or Nicole Silva at (617) 367 - 6447 or edonohue@mhsa.net and nsilva@mhsa.net for assistance and information!

Join us for our next
YPG event!
May 14, 2009
Home for Good:
Join the Housing Revolution

Sixth Annual Fundraising Event for MHSA
Cocktail reception and awards presentation
Omni Parker House Hotel, Boston, MA
Special Young Professionals Ticket Rate Offered
Honorees: Boston City Council President Mike Ross,
Bob Glassman of Wainwright Bank and Pine Street Inn
Contact edonohue@mhsa.net for more information!

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www.mhsa.net

