



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE (MHSA)

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance is a public policy advocacy organization with the singular mission of ending homelessness in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1988 by a dedicated group of “first responders” working with unsheltered adults in Greater Boston, MHSA initiates solutions to move people out of crisis to permanence.

MHSA persists in raising a sense of moral indignation that any person should be without a decent place to live. 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.

MHSA Members

MHSA membership includes 88 organizations serving homeless individuals across the state. These agencies have created over 250 programs which provide permanent housing; transitional programs; emergency shelter; outreach, assessment, and treatment programs; health services; day programs; employment and housing placement programs; economic development opportunities; and homeless self-advocacy.

MHSA Advocacy

Homelessness is a housing crisis that affects hundreds of poor working people and those with disabilities, mental illness and addiction who can no longer afford a place to live. As a result, the moral and social costs of this crisis have soared with people falling to the streets, emergency rooms, hospitals, and the correctional system. Emergency shelters can no longer meet the needs of this problem. Thus, MHSA and its strategic partners seek to create residential solutions to end this social disgrace.

MHSA is committed to ending homelessness by:

- ▶ decreasing the dependence of homeless people on the government through increased resources and the creation of options for homeless people to exercise their self-determination;
- ▶ using research and technology to identify subpopulations of consumers and target resource laden strategies to prevent homelessness and intervene in the lives of those who are homeless;
- ▶ ensuring that homeless people are at the table where public policy decisions are made and resources are allocated;
- ▶ advocating for the prevention of homelessness through the creation of appropriate residential responses for populations at risk of homelessness.