



Job Posting

Director of *A Place to Live*

Job Description: Director of *A Place to Live*

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) is seeking a confident, self-starting leader to create a new approach within Massachusetts communities outside of Boston and to assist regional providers in the development of permanent housing for disabled persons experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness.

About the Program:

A Place to Live will address the homelessness of disabled persons, and the root cause of this problem which is poverty and an unequal distribution of housing resources that results from an insufficient supply of affordable housing. Included in this approach will be addressing the issue of racial/ethnic disparities within the population to be served, as well as in the distribution of resources intended to address homelessness. By addressing this issue, we can solve the problem of the homelessness of individuals with disabling conditions who are living in emergency shelters, on the streets or in encampments throughout Massachusetts. *A Place to Live* will work with local communities outside of Greater Boston to offer housing solutions as an alternative to emergency shelter and further more efficient forms of housing development and construction.

About MHSA:

MHSA is a statewide organization that is driving innovation to end homelessness among adult individuals through advocacy and development of outcome-based programs. For more than 25 years, MHSA has been transforming the traditional response of emergency shelter into a system of permanent housing, improved access to support services and healthcare, and other long-term solutions to homelessness. These strategies have helped dramatically reduce chronic homelessness in Massachusetts and gained MHSA national recognition for several policy initiatives. MHSA has a network of 87 member agencies; it also works closely with state and city government. It uses its unique position as an intermediary between public agencies and homeless service providers to create innovative responses to homelessness for adults in Massachusetts.

MHSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering competitive pay, generous benefits, and work in a mission-focused organization. Learn more about MHSA at www.mhsa.net.

Position Summary: We are looking for a candidate with strong leadership characteristics with some background or familiarity in housing, homelessness and outcome-based research. The Director must be able to communicate with other nonprofit leaders, public officials and research leaders. They must be able to work with a wide array of people within diverse communities. They must be comfortable with



both participating in and leading public meetings. They must possess a collegial attitude and be able to work closely with the President & Executive Director (“President”) and other MHSA staff.

MHSA believes strongly that there are better approaches to the issue of homelessness than our Commonwealth’s default to emergency resources. We are driven in this not from ideology but from data, and believe strongly that a rational approach is the most effective form of advocacy, often working with public entities to bring them to where they should be in responding to the issue of unaccompanied adult homelessness. We expect employees to embrace such an approach. At times we recognize that we must speak truth to power, and any MHSA employee must be ready to do so if the circumstances require it. This position is focused on working with communities outside of Boston (most likely Worcester, Lowell, Brockton and Pittsfield) to engage them in advocacy toward developing housing responses to the issue of homelessness.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Director will report directly to the President and work closely with the Vice President in the execution and administration of this program. At times, the Director will work with the Senior Director of Policy and Programs when the development of this new program intersects with existing programs.

Responsibilities of the Director:

1. Work with the President in the design, implementation and evaluation of *A Place to Live*.
2. Assist in the design and implementation of strategic and marketing plans to promulgate housing solutions within the identified communities.
3. Meet with Regional Housing Authorities (RHAs), architects, and developers to discuss and promote the concept of modular construction.
4. Conduct or assist in community meetings related to the topics of homelessness and housing.
5. Meet with public officials or their delegates as it relates to the issue of homelessness.
6. Work with CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) in implementing an experimental design in measuring racial/ethnic disparity regarding homelessness.
7. Work with other researchers and programs in acquiring data measuring health care utilization within their housing programs.
8. Work with the Vice President, Director of Development and MHSA’s Speakers Bureau to further market the concept of housing as the solution to homelessness.
9. Work to develop progressive strategies in addressing the siting of housing with local communities.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Graduate degree in Public Health, Public Administration, Urban Planning, Law or Social Work preferred. Commensurate experience will be considered.



- Demonstrable experience and comfort with methods and practice of both quantitative and qualitative research.
- Demonstrable capacity to work with advanced Microsoft Office, particularly with Excel, and some familiarity or understanding of STATA, SPSS or R in relation to program evaluation.
- A strong background of experience with issues related to racial/ethnic disparity.
- Excellent attention to detail; ability to follow through and meet deadlines.
- Excellent organizational, written, and verbal communication skills, including ability to prepare reports.
- Strong interpersonal skills; ability to work with funders and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the majority of MHSA staff are working remotely. When it is safe and allowable to do so, staff will primarily be working from the Boston office, although the person in this position may continue to primarily work remotely.

Compensation and Benefits

Compensation is commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits for full-time employees include: health and dental insurance (80% employer-paid), pre-tax commuter benefits, generous paid vacation and holidays, a 401K retirement plan with generous matching contribution, and more.

How to Apply

Please email a cover letter and resume to: Ms. Kaye Wild, Vice President, Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance at kwild@mhsa.net. Please put in the subject line: **PTL Director Position**.

MHSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer, committed to a diverse workforce. Individuals from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.