



## HousingWorks Search and Apply – an overview

- Search for any subsidized, affordable, or special needs housing – including vouchers
- Learn all you need before you spend time calling or writing for an application
- Save time and avoid wasted phone calls: the “results” page only shows you open waitlists
- The “results page” shows you how to sift through the results fast.
- You can also search for a housing advocate (although they are often overloaded with clients)

### HOW DO I SEARCH?

Go to [www.housingworks.net](http://www.housingworks.net) and click the link “Enter HousingWorks” [1]

## Welcome to HousingWorks!

HousingWorks is modeled after an ecosystem, and provides benefits for individuals and organizations working in the affordable, subsidized, and special needs housing worlds.  
This site is designed for low-end users and slow internet connections.  
Read our [Mission Statement](#)

## Enter HousingWorks 1

P.O. Box 231104, Boston, MA 02123

### At-a-Glance

- [Applicants: Search/Apply Services](#)
- [Providers: Waitlist Services](#)
- [Oversights: Data Reporting Services](#)

### Contact Housingworks

Phone: 617-504-0577  
E-mail: [support@housingworks.net](mailto:support@housingworks.net)

### Other Handy Resources

- [Instruction Guides](#)
- [Company Brochure](#)

A number of other websites contain information that may be helpful to you at one time or another:

- [Housing Discrimination Handbook](#)
- [HUD's Housing Discrimination Complaint Form](#)
- [Barriers to Fair Housing](#)
- [Other handy resources](#)

On the next page, click one of these two links: “I’m searching for [housing](#) or a [housing advocate](#) for myself or a friend”



I'm looking for [housing](#) or a [housing advocate](#) for myself or a friend  
*(this search is free and open to anyone)*

If you clicked “housing advocate”, enter your zip code on the next page. This will give you a list of advocates in that county, and tell you what populations they might work with. Each advocate has a “mark” checkbox in the right hand column: check this box if you think you might be eligible, then scroll down to the bottom of the page and hit the button: “Show Marked List”. This will shorten the list so you can print it out without wasting lots of paper.

If you clicked “housing”, indicate what you want to search for on the next page:

1. You must fill out sections **A**, **B**, and **D** for the search to work. Don’t check the box in “C” unless you are searching in a large city.
2. For the **A** section, we limit your search to 5 miles- otherwise, your computer may time out, or you get too many results to handle. 5 miles around a Boston zip code will cover the entire metropolitan area; 7 miles would get you up to Lynn!
3. In the **B** section, the blue box lists all the kinds of permanent housing, while the yellow box contains all the shelter/transitional housing
4. If you use the blue section, always check the *Family/Individual* box or the “Elder” checkbox, plus feel free to check any other boxes that you think you might be eligible for.
5. Be sure to indicate a Unit size, then hit the “Find Housing” button.

**I. Search for Open Waitlists**

**A. Look for housing within a**  **mile radius of zip code:**

**B. What kinds of housing?**  
*Feel free to check as many options as you like.*

PERMANENT HOUSING or RENTAL ASSISTANCE:	SHELTER/TRANSITIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Rental Assistance Voucher	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Single Females or Women with Children
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living / Special Needs / Nursing Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Single Males only
<input type="checkbox"/> Congregate Housing Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Battered Women / Men's Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Independent Living	<input type="checkbox"/> Deleaded Shelter / Transitional Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Deleaded	<input type="checkbox"/> Developmentally Disabled Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Elder/Senior Citizen Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-offender Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-offender Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Individual Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> HIV+ Transitional
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV+ Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant without documented status
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing with Educational Component	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter plus Care (homeless & disabled)
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeownership Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Singles (any/either gender)
<input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant without documented status	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Use Recovery Transitional
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Teen - pregnant / parenting
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Housing-Disability (visiting services)	<input type="checkbox"/> Teen - Runaway/Castaway/Custodial/Behavioral
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Sober ("Oxford House" model)	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Sober Wet Shelter Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Housing-Disability (live-in services)	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Shelter/Transitional
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair Accessible / No-Steps Buildings

6. **IMPORTANT:** If your search “times out”, it just means your computer got tired of waiting while our system does a search. To revive the search, hit the **F5** key on your keyboard, then the **ENTER** key. That will continue the search right where it stopped! You may have to do this a few times if you are on a slow internet connection.
7. Once you get to the search results, **BE SURE TO READ** the note at the top. You will waste your time if you skip this note.

### CAN HOUSINGWORKS BE MY ADVOCATE?

*Sorry, we can't – we just don't have the staff to educate or assist the 50,000 plus households that might be needing advice! So please don't call us requesting information or computer help. However, some housing providers, and large social service agencies have a “consumer education center” that is designed just for this reason, so try contacting one of them. A few calls to shelters or city agencies will get you a short list of places to call. Thank you and best wishes.*