



Important Resources - MA

1. **Make sure you are connected to the Internet**
2. **Press the button next to each item to go to that resource**

This guide is useful for Housing Advocates, Housing Providers, and Housing Applicants. This resource guide is good until Dec 31, 2009. If you have not received a replacement, press this button:

*If your email program does not open, then email us at:
support@housingworks.net*

Resources: ADVOCATES and RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATORS

Search all housing options in one sweep. (Click the "Registered Housing Advocate" link and sign in.)

Search our large housing-related resources database. Click "I'm looking for Housing" link, then click the link: "Search for Housing-Related Resources". This resource includes "everything *related* to housing", such as:

- food pantries and thrift shops,
- Foreign language (or Deaf language) housing advocates,
- places offering free cell phones for women escaping domestic violence, etc.

Search MassCares.org - sponsored by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. This tool will help you find local and statewide organizations that can provide services such as housing, food, financial assistance, benefits and child care.

Locate the contact information for all elected officials, including your own senator and representative

List of the small, private landlord associations in Massachusetts – private landlords who may have affordable units

Find out what county a given town or city is in. Click the "gateway" link and locate your state.

Resources: APPLICANTS

Search all housing options in one sweep. Click "I'm looking for Housing" link and then follow the easy steps.

Find housing advocates near your zip code. Click "I'm looking for a housing advocate" link, then enter your zip code.

Get Federal Benefits applications, verifications, and licenses: SSI, SSDI, Military Records, etc.

Get State Benefits applications, verifications, and licenses

Search MassHousinginfo.org to locate consumer education centers and read notices posted by many housing authorities. This page gives you a list of the consumer centers, but also try the "Calendar of Events" link in the brown-gold bar near the top of the page

The Rural Housing Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) through Rural Development offers Rural Housing Repair and Rehabilitation Loans & Grants up to \$7,500 to make dwellings accessible for household members with a disability in rural areas. Type "rehabilitation loans" in the search box.

Resources: HOUSING PROVIDERS

Sign on to HousingWorks and update your open waitlists and inventory. . (You will need an ID and password – call or email us.) This updating *automatically* notifies thousands of housing advocates and applicants, cuts down on phone calls, boosts compliance with Fair Housing regulations, and fills vacant units. It also provides a helpful income and unit size screening to applicants *before* they try to apply to your housing.

Search our large housing-related resources database. Click "I'm looking for Housing", then the link ("related resources")

2008 Fair Market Rents for Massachusetts - select Massachusetts from the listbox of states.

Resources: Legislative, Legal, and Discrimination

HIV and Discrimination – a guide for people affected by discrimination – but appropriate for all disability issues

HUD's *Discrimination Complaint Form*. Find out how to register a complaint.