

# Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program - HPRP

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## **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program - HPRP**

- ◆ Information: 1-877-418-3308 ([DHCD](#) Division of Housing Stabilization)
- ◆ Applications: Call your Emergency Shelter Assistance or CoC agency
- ◆ Emergency Shelter Assistance Agencies: [Emergency Shelter Assistance City/Town Listing](#)
- ◆ CoC Agencies: [Massachusetts Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Contacts](#)

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NOTE: Glossary words are highlighted. Click on any glossary word to see its definition.

## **What is the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)?**

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is a federally funded homelessness prevention program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program provides services and financial assistance to homeless and at-risk households who only need short-term help to achieve housing stability.

The program is scheduled to begin providing assistance on October 1, 2009. At least 60% of the funds must be spent within the first two years of the program, and 100% of the funds within three years.

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) sets the goals for the state HPRP program, using federal guidelines. One of the DHCD's main goals is to reduce the number of homeless families who are sheltered in hotels and motels. Another goal is to help homeless and at-risk individuals (adults without children) find stable housing.

Cities and towns with separate HPRP grants set the goals for their local HPRP programs.

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## **Am I eligible?**

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is for households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and who only need short-term help to resolve their housing crisis.

You may be eligible if:

- you have housing, but are at risk of homelessness and will become homeless if you do not get HPRP short-term financial help to keep your current housing or to move to a new unit
- or you are homeless, living in emergency/transitional shelters, hotels/motels, or on the street, and need temporary assistance to find housing and keep it.

In addition, you must:

- meet the income limits

Gross household income (before any deductions) must be no greater than 50% of the area median income. These are the same income limits used by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. For dollar amounts, see [What are the income limits for Section 8?](#)

- have a job, be in a training program that will lead to a job, or have enough unearned income to be self-sufficient after getting short-term help
- not have the financial resources or support network to resolve your housing crisis without help from the HPRP program

The HPRP is open to adults without dependent children (individuals) and to families with dependent children (families).

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## **What are the additional requirements for individuals and families?**

If you are an adult without dependent children:

- you can get prevention services only if:
  - you need help because your income went down or your necessary expenses went up
  - and you have found new income or you have lowered your expenses
- you can get financial assistance only if:
  - you agree to housing stabilization services
  - and you contribute at least 30% of household income to rent

If you are a family with dependent children, you can get HPRP financial assistance only if:

- you are eligible for [Emergency Assistance](#) and you are living in a shelter or hotel/motel
- you agree to housing stabilization services
- and you contribute at least 30% of household income to rent

Note: Families with dependent children may also be eligible for homeless prevention assistance through the [RAFT program](#).

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## What benefits will I get?

HPRP offers two types of benefits:

- [services](#) to help households keep their housing or find new housing
- [financial assistance](#) to pay for rent, utilities, and other approved expenses

HPRP benefits are short-term only, for households who can stabilize their housing situation in a short period of time.

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## What are HPRP services?

HPRP services:

- help households resolve their current housing crisis
  - help households plan for the future so they do not have another housing crisis
  - refer at-risk households to community programs and government benefits
  - include outreach, case management, housing search assistance, legal services, and credit repair
  - are free
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## What is HPRP financial assistance?

HPRP gives financial assistance for homelessness prevention and for rapid re-housing.

Types of financial assistance include:

- short-term rental assistance (up to 3 months)
- medium-term rental assistance (up to 15 additional months)
- back rent arrearages (up to 6 months)
- security deposits
- utility deposits
- utility payments (up to 18 months, including up to 6 months of overdue payments)
- moving costs
- short-term storage fees
- hotel and motel vouchers (up to 30 days, if household has found permanent housing but cannot move in right away)

The following rules apply:

- Payments are made to landlords, utility companies, etc., not directly to the households taking part in the program.
  - Rents must be reasonable for the size of the unit and location.
  - Local agencies decide how much financial assistance each household will get.
  - HPRP is not a foreclosure prevention program, and does not provide mortgage assistance or payments for mortgage refinancing.
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## How do I apply?

The scheduled start date for the HPRP program is October 1, 2009. HPRP agencies should be ready to start giving assistance to families and individuals at that time.

You should call your state or local HPRP agency for updates and application information.

- **State HPRP program:**

The Division of Housing Stabilization (DHS) of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is in charge of the Massachusetts state HPRP program.

To apply for the state program:

- call the DHS at 617-573-1370; toll free at 877-418-3308; TTY 617-573-1140

- or contact your local Emergency Shelter Assistance office:  
[Emergency Shelter Assistance City/Town Listing](#)

(Select your city or town from the drop-down menu to find the name, address, and phone number of your local emergency shelter assistance agency.)

- **Local HPRP programs:**

Community nonprofits and local government agencies are in charge of city and town HPRP programs. The following Massachusetts cities and towns have received grants for local HPRP programs:

Arlington	Holyoke	Newton
Boston	Lawrence	Pittsfield
Brockton	Lowell	Quincy
Brookline	Lynn	Somerville
Cambridge	Malden	Springfield
Chicopee	Medford	Worcester
Fall River	New Bedford	

To apply for your local city or town program:

- contact the "Continuum of Care" (CoC) agency for your community:  
[Massachusetts Continuum of Care Contacts](#)

You will have an initial consultation with an HPRP agency staff member to see if you appear to meet the requirements of the program. If you appear to be eligible, the HPRP agency will ask for more information about your income and your housing situation so they can decide on the type and amount of assistance you will get.

## Useful links

These links are external links to web sites that are not part of MassResources.org. When you click on these links, you will leave our site. Click "Back" on your browser to return.

1. [DHCD Division of Housing Stabilization \(DHS\)](#)  
Official web site of the state division in charge of homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing. Includes news, supporting documents, and contacts regarding the HPRP.
2. [Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program \(HPRP\)](#)  
Notices and forms, resources, and background information about the HPRP program. From the HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange.

3. [DHCD Homelessness Prevention And Rapid Re-Housing Program RFR](#) (.doc file)  
Background, goals, eligibility requirements for individuals and families, and eligible activities for the state HPRP. From the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
4. [Notice of Allocations, Application Procedures, and Requirements for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program Grantees under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (.pdf)  
Background information, program description, grantees, eligible activities, eligible participants, and other federal guidelines for the HPRP. From the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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