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EMERGENCY HOUSING OPTIONS

HOMELESS DUE TO FIRE:

1. If you are a renter and have rental insurance, be sure to contact your agency.
2. If you are a renter and do not have rental insurance, Massachusetts requires all landlords and property owners to carry insurance on any multi-unit rental that guarantees up to \$750 to any tenants who are relocated due to fire. You should contact your landlord to inquire.

HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ANY REASON (including fire):

3. DTA (Department of Transitional Services)

If you do not have insurance (and you have children under age of 21 or pregnant) and your family is below 115% of the poverty line; you are eligible for Emergency Assistance family shelter through the DTA.

- To check if your income is below 115% of the poverty line based on family size, check out this website to find out:
<https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/federal-poverty-guidelines-2018>
- To apply for services if you meet criteria go to WWW.mass.gov and search "Emergency Housing"
- Most likely they will tell you to go to the Chelsea office at 80 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150 or Boston Office at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue - New Market Square.

4. DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development) A Guide to Emergency Shelter and Re-housing Services for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness in Massachusetts

<https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/2018-emergency-assistance-advocacy-guide>

Important Tips when applying:

- If the City can quickly provide a report of the fire from the Fire Department, that would help speed things along with documentation.
- If your family cannot get to DTA locations, they may provide transportation- be sure to ask the DTA office. You should go early in the morning, and, although kids are probably in school, it may be worth them not going to school, so you can arrive at the office and wait for placement.
- **Important:** if you are income eligible, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development *must* place your family in shelter. **However, the family must accept any shelter placement offer** (It could be a scattered site apartment or a family shelter) which could be anywhere in the state. You can

request to be placed closer to your home location, but due to long wait lists it may not be possible.

- **If the family refuses a placement offer**, the State declares them ineligible and no longer has any obligation to help them.
- **ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development)** - (781) 321-3431. Assists help with housing, food stamps, MassHealth Applications, clothing and other articles.

ABCD has a location in Malden and can help with some services.

- **The Housing Department:** is located at 6 Pleasant Street, Suite 601-602, Malden, MA 02148. (781) 321-3431. They can help with referrals and **RAFT** funding. The RAFT program provides eligible households up to \$4,000 per 12 month period that can be used to help retain their housing
 - - **ABCD Mystic Valley Opportunity Center**
11 Dartmouth Street Suite 104 Malden, MA 02148, Aiesha Washington, Director aiesha.washington@bostonabcd.org or 781-321-2501. Contact for help with services such as clothing, food, and referrals to other agencies.
5. **Heading Home, Inc.** provides emergency, transitional and permanent housing and support services to low income, homeless and formerly homeless families and individuals. Lisa Schorr-Kaplan, Chief Operating Officer.
lkaplan@headinghomeinc.org 617.864.8140 x131

*If you are placed in transitional housing or Emergency Assistance shelter, you will get a case manager who will help them with a housing search. You will have first priority for all kinds of housing if you were in a fire. However, even first priority involves a wait. You should apply at Malden Housing Authority, Metro Housing, and at any MassHousing project that interests you to try and cover all your options.

6. **Housing Families** located at 919 Eastern Avenue, Malden (781) 322-9292. Housing Families works to end family homelessness. They provide safe, temporary shelter and quality affordable housing to homeless and at-risk families.
- Pro Bono Legal Services** - provide no-cost legal representation, advocacy, advice, information, outreach, and referrals to low-income people who would otherwise struggle to access legal services.
- Emergency Shelter & Affordable Housing** – Housing Families shelters are part of the State family shelter system.

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| What to do if you are ABOVE 115% income level: |
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1. There are about 50 "non-Emergency Assistance" shelter spaces that people with higher incomes can access, but they are usually full. Go www.mahomeless.org this website has information on many different programs and resources that people can access if they are homeless.
2. If your family has resources of your own, you can self-pay for a hotel stay.

Lend a Hand Society may have funds to help. The Lend a Hand Society provides grants to help meet the basic emergency needs of low-income individuals. <http://www.lend-a-hand-society.org>

3. You may want to contact your school to see if they have resources.

Malden Public Schools:

Malden High School

77 Salem Street

Chris Mastrangelo

Tel: (781) 397-6000

Early Learning Center

257 Mountain Avenue

Tel: 781-397-7025

Beebe School

401 Pleasant Street

Tel: 781-388-0622

Ferryway School

150 Cross Street

Gr K-4 Tel.: 781-388-0655

Gr 5-8 Tel.: 781-388-0659

Forestdale School

74 Sylvan Street

Malden, MA 02148

Tel: 781 397-7326

Linden STEAM Academy

29 Wescott Street

Malden, MA 02148

Gr. K-4 Tel: 781- 397-7329

Gr.5-8 Tel: 781- 397-7218

Salemwood School

529 Salem Street

Tel: 781-388-0647

Additional resources for housing:

1. Malden Housing Authority, Steve Finn Director Executive Director
 - 630 Salem Street Malden, MA 02148 781-322-3150
 - Linda Ferullo (781) 322-2878 is the contact for intake at MHA
2. Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP)
 - Homelessness prevention (617) 859-0400
3. Community Service Network (Stoneham) (781)-438-1977
4. Mass Coalition for Homelessness (Lynn) (78) 595-7570
5. ABCD- Action for Boston Community Development (781)321-3431. Assists help with housing, food stamps, MassHealth Applications, clothing and other articles
6. Department of Transitional Services (DTA)- assists and empowers low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long term economic self-sufficiency. DTA can help with direct economic assistance (cash benefits) and food assistance (SNAP benefits), as well as workforce training opportunities, Masshealth, and other service (781) 388-7300.
7. Barkan Management Company- Bryant Terrace Apartments the Property Manager is Andrew Vaughan btterrace@comcast.net they have affordable housing apartments- usually a wait list.
8. Centerboard's Housing Services- works with families throughout the North Shore that are homeless. We offer home based stabilization services with intensive case management. The goal for each family is permanent, safe housing and self-sufficiency. Our housing programs build on residents' strengths by offering classes and workshops, trauma informed care, clinical support and by providing a compassionate recognition of family challenges, www.thecenterboard.org