

## Local Asthma and Housing Resources

### **Housing Counseling/Tenant Rights**

Reducing exposure to triggers within the home is a complex issue for renters. There are actions that the renters can take to reduce exposure to triggers, however, there are many times when action may need to be taken by the landlord as well. For example, if there are mechanical or structural problems leading to leaks and mold or opportunity for pest infestation, then action needs to be taken by the landlord. Housing counseling programs can help tenants have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities as tenants and provide guidance about the appropriate actions for them to take when changes in the home need to take place that are the responsibility of the landlord.

- **Springfield Partners for Community Action - Housing Counseling Program**  
*Housing Counseling Program for low-income individuals and families*

Springfield Partners for Community Action  
619 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01109  
(413)263-6500  
<http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com>

- **HAP, Inc. - Fair Housing Initiative**  
*The Fair Housing Initiatives Program is a joint project of HAP and the Housing Discrimination Program. The goal of the program is to increase the understanding of fair housing rights among members of protected classes, housing providers and providers of support services in Hampden and Hampshire Counties through a variety of outreach, education and counseling activities.*

HAP, Fair Housing Initiative  
322 Main St.  
Springfield, MA 01105  
Contact: John Fisher  
(413) 233-1609  
<http://www.haphousing.org/programs/>

- **Massachusetts Fair Housing Center**  
*MFHC's mission is to enforce and defend human and civil rights and promote fair housing practices through education, research, and the dissemination of information.*

Massachusetts Fair Housing Center  
57 Suffolk Street

4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Holyoke, MA 010470  
413-539-9796 ext-101  
<http://www.massfairhousing.org/joomla/>

### **Legal Services**

Legal advice and representation for housing related issues including retaliatory eviction, violations of reasonable accommodation law, violations of reasonable modification law, housing discrimination

- **Massachusetts Justice Project**

*Mass Justice Project is a hotline where callers can obtain legal advice and receive referrals when appropriate to Western Massachusetts Legal Services and other agencies.*

Massachusetts Justice Project  
57 Suffolk Street, 4th floor  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
413-533-2660  
1-800-639-1209  
Hotline Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday - 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- **Western Massachusetts Legal Services**

*WMLS provides free legal help in non-criminal cases for low-income people and elders who live in western Massachusetts and works in partnership with Massachusetts Justice Project. People should call Mass Justice Project for an intake and then will get referred to Western Mass Legal Services if appropriate. Current case acceptance priorities are housing, government benefits, family law and domestic violence, employment, disability, health care and problems uniquely affecting elders. The assistance we provide ranges from legal advice to full representation.*

Western Massachusetts Legal Services  
One Monarch Place  
Suite 400  
Springfield, MA 01144  
413-781-7814

### **Home Modification Loans**

Loan programs for homeowners to make needed modifications to home. Restrictions apply. See specific program for eligibility.

- **HAP, Inc. - Home Modification Loan Program**

*The Home Modification Loan Program provides deferred payment and low interest loans for physical modifications to the homes of elders, adults with disabilities, and families with children with disabilities. Asthma may qualify as a disability depending on severity.*

HAP, Home Modification Loan Program  
322 Main St.  
Springfield, MA 01105  
Contact: Marta Santiago  
(413) 233-1615  
<http://www.haphousing.org/programs/>

- **MassHousing – Home Improvement Loan Program**

*Affordable loans to make general, non-luxury improvements to your property. Borrowers must meet income eligibility limits to qualify for a HILP loan.*

MassHousing – Western Massachusetts Office  
59 Interstate Drive,  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
413.733.0999

[https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=227&&PageID=302&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=2&cached=true](https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=227&&PageID=302&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true)

- **City of Springfield Office of Housing**

*The office makes grants to income-eligible homeowners for exterior paint, lead abatement, general rehabilitation, and furnace repair and replacement.*

Housing Office  
1600 East Columbus Ave.  
1st Floor  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413.787.6500

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com/housing/>

### **Weatherization Programs**

Assessing homes for energy efficiency can help people identify cracks, crevices or structural issues that can make their home less energy efficient and allow pests to enter the home. If families with asthma are having cockroach, mouse or rat problems and they are triggers for their asthma, a weatherization program can help seal the places where they get into the home. These programs also pay all or some of the cost to make the changes identified in the energy efficiency assessment (e.g. insulation, sealing cracks and crevices to reduce air infiltration, energy efficient appliances).

- **Springfield Partners for Community Action – Weatherization Program**

*Service provided to income-eligible renters and homeowners. The program prioritizes services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children. Professionally trained Weatherization crews use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment, to address whole-house energy use. Weatherization crews also perform health and safety tests that may include: testing heating units and appliances for combustion safety, carbon monoxide, and gas leaks; assessing moisture damage; checking electrical system safety; replacing unsafe heating and cooling systems; and installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.*

Springfield Partners for Community Action  
Weatherization Program  
284 Main St  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
(413)543-1767  
<http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com>

- **MassSave**

*MassSAVE is brought to you by your local electric and gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers and provides year-round home energy solutions to save you money, improve the energy performance of your home, reduce air pollution, and protect the environment.*

Contact your local utility or energy service provider listed below for more information about MassSAVE, or call **1-866-527-7283**.