



Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition Asthma and Housing Resources

Resource	Contact information	Areas Served
Housing Counseling/Tenant Rights		
<p>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.</p>	<p>HAP Consumer Education Center 322 Main St. Springfield, MA 01105 hcec@haphousing.org, 413.233.1600 http://www.haphousing.org/default/index.cfm/renters/</p> <p>Springfield Partners for Community Action 619 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 413.263.6500 http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com</p>	<p>Hampden & Hampshire Counties</p> <p>Springfield</p>
Fair Housing/Housing Discrimination		
<p>Housing discrimination is illegal under both state and federal laws. It is always against the law to deny anyone housing based on race. In almost all instances, it is also against the law to deny anyone housing based on disability and many other criteria. To talk with someone about discrimination concern or to file a discrimination complaint, contact the organizations listed here.</p>	<p>Massachusetts Fair Housing Center 57 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 413.539.9796, 800.675.7309 http://www.massfairhousing.org</p> <p>HAP Fair Housing Initiative 322 Main St, Springfield, MA 01105 John Fisher, 413.233.1609 http://www.haphousing.org/default/index.cfm/renters/tenants-rights-and-issues/fair-housing/</p>	<p>Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire, and Worcester counties.</p> <p>Hampden and Hampshire counties</p>
Code Enforcement		
<p>Sanitary Housing Code violations can be reported to your city for inspection. Some housing code violations may lead to conditions that affect asthma (ie moisture and mold). A summary of the Massachusetts housing code can be found at http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cissfsn/sfsnidx.htm</p> <p>Contact your local health or housing department to report housing code violations.</p>	<p>Springfield Housing Office http://www.springfieldcityhall.com/housing/code-enf.0.html 413.787.6730.</p> <p>Holyoke Health Department 413.322.5595 http://www.ci.holyoke.ma.us/index.php?option=com_proforms&jid=1&cid=-1&Itemid=208</p>	<p>Springfield</p> <p>Holyoke</p>

	<p>Northampton Health Department 413.587.1214 http://www.northamptonma.gov/313/Housing-Standards</p> <p>West Springfield Department of Health http://www.west-springfield.ma.us/Public_Documents/WSpringfieldma_Health/index Charles D. Kaniecki, HHS, ckaniecki@west-springfield.ma.us 413.263.3206</p> <p>State list of Boards of Health http://www.mhoa.com/boh-roster</p>	<p>Northampton</p> <p>West Springfield</p> <p>Statewide</p>
Housing Court Advocacy		
<p>These agencies offer counseling and education to residents at risk of being evicted from their homes. They also support residents through program referrals, budget counseling and financial assistance (if available) to prevent eviction.</p>	<p>Springfield Partners for Community Action 619 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 413.263.6500 http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com</p> <p>Community Action http://www.communityaction.us/housing-court_advocacy.html</p> <p>General information on Housing Courts in MA http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/hc/FAQs http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/hc/hc-faq-gen.html</p>	<p>Springfield</p> <p>Hampshire & Franklin</p> <p>Statewide</p>
Legal Assistance and Information		
<p>Community Legal Aid is the civil legal aid program that provides free legal services to low-income and elderly families and individuals in central and western Massachusetts.</p>	<p>Community Legal Aid, Inc. (CLA) http://www.masslegalservices.org/FindLegalAid_offices Telephone Intake: 855.CLA-LEGAL/855.252.5342 <i>Toll-free</i> Check the website for intake hours.</p>	<p>Western Massachusetts</p>

<p>MassLegalHelp.org is a website to help you find practical information about your legal rights. The housing section has lots of information on tenants' rights including self-help forms, sample letters, booklets, handbooks, and frequently asked questions.</p>	<p>Online intake: http://www.communitylegal.org/apply-online</p> <p>MassLegalHelp.org http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing</p>	<p>Massachusetts</p>
Radon		
<p>The Radon Unit advises and assists homeowners, radon mitigators and owners of public buildings in dealing with high levels of radon in indoor air that contribute unnecessarily to the background radiation received by members of the public</p>	<p>Radon Program – DPH Western Regional Health Office 23 Service Center Rd, Northampton, MA 01060 413. 586,7525 http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/radiation/</p>	<p>Western MA</p>
Mold Remediation		
<p>The State of Massachusetts offers licensing for tradespeople including General Contractors, Plumbers, Electricians and HVAC.</p> <p>There is no specific state licensing for mold remediation contractors. The Indoor Air Quality Association and the American Council for Accredited Certification offer assistance in finding contractors with training and certification in mold remediation and indoor air quality improvement.</p> <p>Franklin County Home Care Corporation also provides this Consumer's Home Repair Guide with valuable information on how to deal with home repairs.</p>	<p>MA Licensing of Home Improvement Contractors http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/consumer-rights-and-resources/home-improvement-contract/</p> <p>MA Division of Professional Licensure Choosing a Licensed Professional Fact Sheet http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/government/oca-agencies/dpl/consumer-fact-sheets/choosing-a-licensed-pro.html</p> <p>Find a Licensed Professional (Plumber, Electrician, HVAC) http://license.reg.state.ma.us/loca/locaprof.asp</p> <p>Indoor Air Quality Association http://www.iaqa.org/consumer-info</p> <p>American Council for Accredited Certification http://acac.org/find/database.aspx</p> <p>Franklin County Home Care Corporation Consumer's Home Repair Guide http://www.fchcc.org/images/Home-Repair-Guide-2013.pdf</p>	<p>Statewide</p> <p>Statewide</p> <p>Statewide</p> <p>National</p> <p>National</p> <p>General</p>

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program		
<p>CLPPP provides a range of services including prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lead poisoning to the children of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and their families.</p> <p>Get the Lead Out program Low-cost financing to address lead-based paint hazards</p>	<p>Childhood Lead Prevention Program (CLPP) DPH Western Regional Health Office 23 Service Center Rd Northampton, MA 01060 413.586.7525, 800.532.9571 (statewide) http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/lead/</p> <p>Find an inspector or deleader: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/lead/delead/find-an-inspector-private-risk-assessor-deleader.html</p> <p>HAP 322 Main St, Springfield, MA 01105 413.233.1614 http://www.haphousing.org/default/index.cfm/homeowners/get-the-lead-out/</p> <p>Springfield Office of Housing 1600 East Columbus Ave. 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01103 413.787.6500 http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/housing/</p> <p>Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services 111 Wilbraham Road – Springfield, MA 01109 413.739.4737 http://springfieldnhs.org/services/lead-paint-inspections</p>	<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>Hampden and Hampshire Counties</p> <p>Springfield</p> <p>Hampden County</p>
Weatherization/Energy Efficiency		
<p>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 moisture and mold problems or pests (ie cockroach, mouse or rat) which trigger their asthma, a</p>	<p>Springfield Partners for Community Action 619 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 413.263.6500 http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com/ourprograms/weatherization/</p>	<p>Springfield</p>

<p>weatherization program can help seal the places to prevent moisture or prevent pests from getting 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).</p> <p>Your local utility company may provide discounts and energy efficiency services. MassSave, a website from electric and gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers also offers information and referrals for available home energy solutions.</p>	<p>Community Action Energy Programs at: 393 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 413.774.2310 or 800.370.0940 http://www.communityaction.us/weatherization.html</p> <p>MassSave 1.866.527.7283 http://www.masssave.com/residential/offers/home-mpg</p>	<p>Hampshire and Franklin Counties</p> <p>Western MA</p>
<p>Fuel Assistance</p>	<p>New England Farmworkers Council 413.272.2209 http://www.partnersforcommunity.org/default/index.cfm/fuel-assistance/</p> <p>Valley Opportunity Council 300 High Street, 1st Floor, Holyoke, MA 01040 413.552.1548</p> <p>Community Action 377 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 413.774.2310 or 800.370/0940 http://www.communityaction.us/home-energy-assistance.html</p> <p>Springfield Partners for Community Action 619 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 413.263.6500 http://www.springfieldpartnersinc.com/ourprograms/emergency-energy/</p>	<p>Springfield</p> <p>Hampden County except Springfield</p> <p>Hampshire, Franklin Counties</p> <p>Springfield</p>
<p>Fuel Assistance or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills.</p> <p>Springfield Partners for Community Action provides energy assistance for Springfield residents not eligible for LIHEAP</p>		

<p>Home Modification Loans</p> <p>Loan programs for homeowners to make needed modifications to their homes. Programs provide 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. Restrictions apply. See specific program for eligibility.</p> <p>http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/disability-services/housing-disability/home-mod-loan/</p>	<p>HAP, Home Modification Loan Program 322 Main St., Springfield, MA 01105 413. 233.1615 http://www.haphousing.org/default/index.cfm/homeowners/home-loans/</p> <p>Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) 413.781.6045 http://www.pvpc.org/</p>	<p>Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, Northampton, Agawam, West Springfield, and Westfield</p> <p>(All other Western MA cities/towns)</p>
<p>Home Repair</p>		
<p>Emergency Repair Assistance</p> <p>The office makes grants to income-eligible homeowners for exterior paint, lead abatement, general rehabilitation, and furnace repair and replacement.</p>	<p>City of Springfield Office of Housing 1600 East Columbus Ave, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01103 413.787.6500 http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/housing/51.0.html</p>	<p>Springfield</p>
<p>Heating System Repair</p> <p>Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Tasks Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP)</p> <p>HEARTWAP is designed to provide emergency heating system repair; pay for the cost of an annual inspection of a fuel burning system; or pay for the replacement of the system, if needed. The program is intended to assist homeowners whose household income does not exceed 60% of the area median income.</p>	<p>For approval for Fuel Assistance (required):</p> <p>New England Farm Worker’s Council 413.272.2209</p> <p>After approval:</p> <p>City of Springfield Office of Housing 1600 East Columbus Ave, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01103 413.787.6500. http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/housing/51.0.html</p> <p>Valley Opportunity Council 300 High Street, 2nd Floor, Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 552-1548 http://valleyopp.com/index.php?page=heartwap</p> <p>Community Action Energy Programs 393 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 413-774-2310 or 800-370-0940 http://www.communityaction.us/heating-system-repair.html</p>	<p>Springfield</p> <p>Hampden County except for Springfield</p> <p>Hampshire and Franklin</p>
<p>Home Repair</p> <p>Free critical home repairs for low income families with children, the elderly, military veterans and people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Rebuilding Together Springfield 1145 Main St., Suite 107 Springfield, MA 01103 http://www.rebuildingtogetherspringfield.org/</p>	<p>Springfield</p>

Loans for Home Owners		
MassHousing offers a number of affordable loan programs for existing homeowners	<p>MassHousing – Western Massachusetts Office 59 Interstate Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089 413.733.0999 http://www.masshousing.com</p>	Massachusetts
Foreclosure Prevention		
These agencies offer assistance if you are having trouble making mortgage payments and feel like you may be in danger of foreclosure.	<p>Western MA Foreclosure Prevention Center-HAP 322 Main St., Springfield, MA 01105 413-233-1622 or 1-800-332-9667, ext. 1622 http://www.haphousing.org/default/index.cfm/homeowners/foreclosure-prevention/</p> <p>Community Action http://www.communityaction.us/foreclosure-prevention.html Franklin County 393 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 413.475.1570</p> <p>Hampshire County 17 New South St., Suite 116, Northampton, MA 413.582.4237</p>	<p>Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin</p> <p>Franklin</p> <p>Hampshire</p>
Hoarding		
Since clutter can attract pests, hoarding can be a source of environmental asthma triggers. These resources offer education and referrals on addressing hoarding.	<p>MassHousing https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt/community/property_managers/239/hoarding_resources/3089</p> <p>Buried in Treasures - (413)585-3985 or HCHoardingTF@gmail.com</p>	

DISCLAIMER: PVAC does not endorse or verify the services provided. Information was correct at the time of compilation.
For the latest version, visit http://pvasthmacoalition.org/asthma_resources/healthy_homes

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For materials and information on asthma and housing or for updates to this list:

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