Mass LEAP is a program open to MBHP MVP voucher-holders that combines rental assistance with financial and career coaching. Kenya began working with a financial coach at their Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) agency. She was very excited about the opportunity to build assets to help her achieve her dreams. Kenya began working with a financial coach at MBHP MRVP voucher-holders agency. She was very excited about the opportunity to build assets to help her achieve her dreams.

Mass LEAP includes:

• Opportunity to build assets to help you achieve your dreams.
• Management of a savings account by MBHP that is invested to increase your income.
• Free support from career and financial coaches at MBHP.

The Massachusetts Learning, Employment and Asset Program (Mass LEAP) is a program open to MBHP MVP voucher-holders that combines rental assistance with financial and career coaching. Kenya began working with a financial coach at MBHP MRVP voucher-holders agency. She was very excited about the opportunity to build assets to help her achieve her dreams.

Kenya’s Massachusetts Rental Voucher helped her afford her rent, but bills, student loans, and other expenses made it hard to feel in control of her finances. She was curious about what more she could do. So when she learned about Mass LEAP, she jumped at the chance. Mass LEAP is an excellent program for MBHP MVP voucher-holders that combines rental assistance with financial and career coaching. Kenya began working with a financial coach at MBHP MRVP voucher-holders agency. She was very excited about the opportunity to build assets to help her achieve her dreams.

Kenya is now focusing on increasing her income so that she can start escrowing savings. She is looking into taking online courses and a promotion with her current employer. She is also working on a household budget and making some decisions to better manage her expenses, including selling her car. That new-found knowledge came in handy earlier this year when she had to take a leave of absence from work when her mother became ill. She says being able to talk to her financial coach during this time was very helpful, giving her the confidence she needed to make important decisions.

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Hurry, there are limited spaces available. Contact our Resource Line at 617.425 6691 or ResourceLine@MBHP.org for more information.
Start Right Workshop
MBHP isn’t just about helping people find homes, we want you to be able to stay there for as long as you choose.

To help, we educate landlords and tenants about working together to resolve issues and maintain a good relationship. And we are adjusting one of our workshops to focus on this important relationship.

Starting in January 2016, MBHP will offer the Start Right Workshop. The updated workshop is designed for tenants, especially those with newly-signed leases, who are looking to start things off on the right foot with their landlord, focusing on the importance of good communication. The workshop will also offer general information on the eviction process, including tenant rights.

“The Start Right Workshop is a great way to help tenants increase their chances of staying in their home for the long-haul,” said Regine Chrispin, HCEC Manager at MBHP. “We hope tenants come away learning valuable lessons about maintaining a successful relationship with their landlords.”

Meet MBHP: Keila Lopez
For Keila Lopez, no two days at MBHP are alike. As one of MBHP’s Housing Search Case Managers, she meets with people in a variety of programs, inside and outside the office, to help them apply for support and secure housing they can afford.

Hometown. I was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the youngest of five siblings, but I was raised in the Bronx, New York City. I used to spend my summers going to the Bronx Zoo, Yankee Stadium, museums. Most of all, I enjoyed going to the World Trade Center.

Hobbies. I like to listen to all types of music. I also love and enjoy museums. Most of all, I enjoyed going to the World Trade Center.

Food. I like Puerto Rican food, my favorite dish is Arroz con Gandules y Perro (Rice with Green Pigeon Peas and Pork Shoulder)

Values. Understanding kindness, love, and dedication.

Accomplishments. The birth of my beautiful daughters.

Personal hero. Dr. Maya尔Birue, Superintendant of Chinese Public Schools, and my former supervisor. She gives so much to the community. She was the reason I decided to work for an organization that helps families get through some hard times.

Stay safe at home this winter!
Carbon monoxide
Carbon monoxide (CO) is often referred to as the “invisible killer” because it is a poisonous gas that has no visible color, taste, or odor. CO is present wherever there is, alone, as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. Below are some tips to avoid exposure to CO:

• Do not leave a vehicle running inside a garage, even if the door is open. Fumes will build up quickly inside the home.
• Do not use a gas oven to heat your home and never use a charcoal grill indoors.
• Check vent pipes, flues, and chimneys for leaks or blockages.
• Check behind your car before starting the engine to make sure smoke is not blocking the tailpipes.
• Do not use un-vented kerosene heaters—thay—they’re illegal in Massachusetts.
• Never use gasoline-powered generators, chainsaws, blowers, weed trimmers, mowers, or snow blowers indoors or near doors or windows.
• Have a qualified service tech- nician inspect your appliances yearly, before the heating season.
• Make sure you are working CO alarms on all levels of your home.
• When buying a heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters’ Laboratories Inc. (UL).
• The sale and use ofvented kerosene heaters is illegal in Massachusetts.

Space heaters
Space heaters can be fire hazards if not used properly. Stay warm and safe by following these safety tips:

• Keep the heater three feet away from drapes, furniture, or other combustible materials.
• Place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump into it and knock it over.
• Avoid using extension cords. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as that on the label of the heater itself.

• Space heaters are for tempo- rary use only. Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.
• Superintendents and children and pets who use a space heater is in use.
• Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.
• When buying a heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters’ Laboratories Inc. (UL).

For more safety tips, visit with Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety website at www.mass.gov/difs.

Utility assistance

From November 15 to March 15, Massachusetts law provides protection for residents who are struggling with their utility costs. The “winter moratorium” prevents gas and electric companies from shutting off your heating fuel because of your inability to pay for it. For them, you cannot shut off a service that you need to run your residential heating system.

Charges will continue to be applied during this period and you will still owe the utility company for the provided service, so you should still pay what you can afford during this time.

• If you need help with utility costs, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help. Visit http://www.energy. mass.gov/energyefficiency.aspx or contact ASCR for more information:
  • Boston: 617.357.5012
  • Brookline: 617.730.2777
  • Newton: 617.966.1282
  • Malden, Medford, Everett, Melrose: 617.623.1967
  • Winchester and Woburn: 781.322.6284

Start your tenancy out on the right foot!
Upcoming workshops at MBHP
Start Right Workshop
Start your tenancy out on the right foot!
January 5th, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Affordable Housing Basics
Learn about criteria, waiting lists, and types of assistance you can apply for affordable housing.
January 19th, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Housing Strategies Clinic
Become empowered and effective in inventing your personal housing goal!
January 19th, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Meet MBHP: Keila Lopez

For Keila Lopez, no two days at MBHP are alike. As one of MBHP’s Housing Search Case Managers, she meets with people in a variety of products, inside and outside the office, to help them apply for rent and supply them for affordable housing.

Hometown. I was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico, the youngest of five siblings, but I was raised in the Bronx, New York City. I used to send my summers going to the Bronx Zoo, Yankee Stadium, museums. Most of all, I enjoyed going to the World Trade Center.

Personal hero. She was the reason I decided to work for the New York City public schools, and my former supervisor. She gives so much from a diverse selection of fresh produce and dairy products, as well as frozen soup and high-protein items.

A local neighborhood organization that works toward the elimination of hunger. GBFB delivers high-quality, perishable food at convenient and safe school locations.

The Greater Boston Food Bank's Brown Bag program provides

Utility assistance

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Affordable Housing Basics

Learn about criteria, waiting lists, and how to apply for affordable housing.

January 19, 10–11:30 a.m.

Housing Strategies Clinic

Become empowered and effective in improving your housing situation.

January 5, 10–11:30 a.m.
For Keila Lopez, no two days at MBHP are alike. As one of MBHP’s staff members, she is part of a family that has been involved in the housing field for many years.

Meet MBHP: Keila Lopez

For Keila Lopez, no two days at MBHP are alike. Some of MBHP’s Housing Search Case Managers, she meets with people in a variety of roles, inside and outside the office, to help them apply for safe and affordable housing they can afford.

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I was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico, the youngest of five siblings, but I was reared in the Bronx, New York City. I used to spend my summers going to the Bronx Zoo, Yankee Stadium, museums. Most of all, I enjoyed going to the World Trade Center.

Personal hero.
Hobbies.
Food.

Accomplishments.

I like to listen to all types of music. I also love and enjoy arts and crafts.
Food.
I like Puerto Rican food, my favorite dish is Aroon with Gandules y Perro (Rice with Green Peppers, Peas and Pork Shoulder).

Stay safe at home this winter!
Carbon monoxide
Carbon monoxide (CO), sometimes called the “invisible killer,” is a poisonous gas that has no visible color, taste, or odor. It is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. Below are some tips to avoid exposure to CO:

• Do not leave a vehicle running inside a garage, even if the door is open. Fumes will build up inside the garage quickly.
• Do not use a gas oven to heat your home and never use a charcoal grill indoors.
• Check vent pipes, flues, and chimneys for leaks or blockages.
• Check behind your car before starting the engine to make sure smoke is not blocking the tailpipe.
• Do not use unvented kerosene heaters—they are illegal in Massachusetts.
• Never use gasoline-powered generators (except for back-up generators that run on battery power). They are not safe to use indoors.

Space heaters
Space heaters can be fire hazards if not used properly. Stay warm and safe by following these safety tips:

• Keep the heater feet away from drapes, furniture, or other combustible materials.
• Place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump into it and knock it over.
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Charges will continue to be applied during this period and you will still owe the utility company for the provided service, so you should still pay what you can afford during this time.

If you need help with utility costs, contact the (LHEAP) may be able to help. Visit http://mass.gov/dfs.


e Website at www.mass.gov/dfs.

For more safety tips, visit with Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety website at www.mass.gov/dfps.

Have a Christmas tree?
Remember to water it daily.
Dry trees are a fire hazard.

Upcoming workshops at MBHP

Start Right Workshop
Start your tenancy out on the right foot!
January 5th, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

A balanced diet can help you stay healthy throughout the cold winter months. The following programs are available through Greater Boston Food Bank.

Brown Bag Program (seniors)
The Greater Boston Food Bank’s Brown Bag program provides supplemental groceries to thousands of seniors every month ensuring they don’t miss meals and receive the nutritious food they need to stay healthy.

School-Based Pantry
School-based pantries offer a unique opportunity for GBFB to directly reach children and families in need with fresh, healthy food at convenient and safe school locations.

The School-Based Pantry Program is now held monthly in eight area school districts:

• Jamaica Hills Elementary School in Jamaica Plain
• James Corden School in South Boston
• William F. X. English School in Charlestown
• Orchard Gardens school in South Boston
• STEM Academy at the Rogers School in Lowell
• Larchmont School in Lynn
• Marlach School in Billerica
• Hill School in Woburn

Mobile Market
Through Mobile Markets, GBFB delivers high-quality, perishable food directly to partner sites, where it is set up on tables in the style of a farmer’s market. Clients “shop” at each table, choosing from a diverse selection of fresh produce and dairy products, as well as frozen soup and high-protein items.

Contact program@gbfb.org or call 617.425.3200 to learn more about these programs.

Start Right Workshop
MBHP isn’t just about helping people find homes, we want you to be able to stay there for as long as you choose.

To help, we educate landlords and tenants about working together to resolve issues and maintain a good relationship. And we are adjusting one of our workshops to focus on this important relationship.

Starting in January 2018, MBHP will offer a Start Right Work- shop. The updated workshop is designed for landlords, especially those with newly-signed leases, who are looking to build strong relationships from the start.

The Start Right Workshop is a great way to help tenants increase their chances of staying in their home for the long-term,” said Regine Chrispin, HCEC Manager.

To help, we educate landlords and tenants about working together to resolve issues and maintain a good relationship.”

“Tenants have their own goals, and landlords have their goals. Together, we can work to meet both goals.”

“The Start Right Workshop is designed for tenants, especially those with newly-signed leases, who are looking to build strong and positive relationships from the start.”

To help, we educate landlords and tenants about working together to resolve issues and maintain a good relationship. And we are adjusting one of our workshops to focus on this important relationship.

For more information, visit our website at www.mbhp.org/RAFT.

For MBHP’s Resource Line at 617.672.5600 (para español, llame 617.672.5685) or email ResourceLine@mbhp.org, or visit our office. For more information or to apply, visit our website at www.mbhp.org/RAFT.
Kenya’s Massachusetts Rental Voucher helped her afford her rent, but bills, student loans, and other expenses made it hard to feel in control of her finances. She was curious about what more she could do. So when she heard about Mass LEAP, she jumped at the chance.

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Mass LEAP

The Massachusetts Learning, Employment and Asset Program
Invest in your future with Mass LEAP!

Find a colocation near you! MBHP services close to where you live. Our current colocation schedule is below. Not an MBHP voucher holder? Opportunities may still be available. Contact our Resource Line at 617.425.6778 or ResourceLine@MBHP.org for more information.

Meet with MBHP
For more information about how RCC students can meet with MBHP on campus, contact RCC’s Single Stop at 617.933.7459 or visit Administration Building (2), Room 101.

A wake-up call

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) participants with children under the age of 18 may be eligible for the Mass LEAP program, which combines rental assistance with financial and career coaching.

New colocation at Roxbury Community College
Roxbury Community College students can now make an appointment to meet one-on-one with MBHP staff members on the RCC campus.

“RCC is committed to removing the obstacles that prevent our students from completing their studies,” says RCC president, Dr. Inalma Robinson. “This new partnership between RCC and MBHP, in conjunction with the current wrap-around service called Single Stop, will provide our students with the necessary assistance to overcome this all-too-common barrier.”

The partnership kicked off with a three-hour workshop on Affordable Housing Basics. The workshop covered program criteria, waiting lists, and how to apply. “We are excited to bring MBHP services to the students of Roxbury Community College,” said MBHP Director of Housing Services, Amanda DeBalsi. “Through this partnership, we are able to provide low-interest housing counseling services on the road, making it even easier for students to find the help they need.”

“The affordable housing world can be very confusing to people who are new to it,” said Matthew Gibson, MBHP’s Outreach Case Manager. “We are looking forward to demystifying the process for any RCC students who need help finding housing they can afford.”

With colocations, MBHP comes to you. Through partnerships with other nonprofits and agencies, we are able to meet with clients in the communities we serve, while also giving you a chance to learn about another local resource that may be able to assist you.

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Not an RCC student? For a complete list of current colocations, please see Page 6.
Taking the leap: Kenya’s story

A new program for MBHP voucher-holders is helping Kenya gain control of her finances and her future.

Kenya’s Massachusetts Rental Voucher helped her afford her rent, but bills, student loans, and other expenses made it hard to feel in control of her finances. She was curious about what more she could do. So when she learned about Mass LEAP, she jumped at the chance.

Mass LEAP is a program open to MXHP/MVDP voucher-holders that combines rental assistance with financial coaching and career services. Kenya began working with a financial coach at Jewish Vocational Service, one of MBHP’s partners, learning about ways to improve her credit and pay off her debt. “It helped me become more aware of how things affect my credit,” she says, “and how to not adversely affect it.”

She also worked on a household budget and made some decisions to better manage her expenses, including selling her car. That new-found knowledge came in handy earlier this year when she had to take a leave of absence from work when her mother became ill. She says being able to talk to her financial coach during this time was very helpful, giving her the confidence she needed to make important decisions.

Kenya is now focusing on increasing her income so that she can start earning savings. She is looking into taking online courses to finish her college degree, which will put her in a good place for a promotion with her current employer. “I absolutely recom- mend Mass LEAP,” she says.

Mass LEAP

The Massachusetts Learning, Employment and Asset Program

Invest in your future with Mass LEAP!

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) participants with children under the age of 18 may be eligible for the Mass LEAP program. This program includes:

- Free support from career and financial coaches at Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) to help increase your income.
- Management of a savings account by MBHP that is activated when you increase your earned income.
- Opportunity to build assets to help you achieve your dreams.
- To demystifying the process for overcoming this all-too-common barrier.

Find a colocation near you!

Colocations allow you to access MBHP services close to where you live. Our current colocation schedule is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bunker Hill Community College</td>
<td>250 New Rutherford Ave, Boston, MA 02118</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codman Square</td>
<td>193 Talbot Ave, Dorchester Center, Boston, MA 02124</td>
<td>Mon, Tues 9 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Social Services</td>
<td>105 Adams St, Quincy, MA 02169</td>
<td>Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quincy College</td>
<td>305 Hancock St, Quincy, MA 02169</td>
<td>Mon, Tues 9 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosbury Community College</td>
<td>1234 Columbia Ave, Rosbury, MA 02132</td>
<td>Mon, Wed 9 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Edge</td>
<td>1542 Columbus Ave, Rosbury, MA 02132</td>
<td>Mon, Wed 9 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>617.425.6778</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meet with MBHP

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New colocation at Roxbury Community College

Roxbury Community College students can now make an appointment to meet one-on-one with MBHP staff members on the RCC campus.

“RCC is committed to removing the obstacles that prevent our students from completing their studies,” says RCC president, Dr. Valerie Roberson. “Through this new partnership between RCC and MBHP, in conjunction with the current services offered by Single Stop, we are able to provide our students with significant assistance in overcoming this all-too-common barrier. The partnership kicked-off with a three-hour workshop on Affordable Housing Basics.

“We are excited to bring MBHP services to the students of Roxbury Community College,” said program manager of Housing Supports Kate Fulton. “Throughout this partnership, we are able to take our housing counseling services on the road, making it even easier for students to get the help they need.”

With colocations, MBHP comes to you. Through partnerships with other nonprofits and agencies, we are able to meet with clients in the communities we serve, while also giving you a chance to learn about another local resource that may be able to assist you.