

Watertown 2015 Community Resource Directory

*An effort of the Watertown Service Provider Network,
coordinated by Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD).
This Directory is updated annually by a working group
of Watertown organizations and is available online at MWCD.
Last update 02/10/2015 .*

Contributing Watertown Organizations

Community Partnerships for Children
Metro West Collaborative Development
Parent Child Home Program
Project Literacy, Watertown Free Public Library
Springwell
Watertown Community Foundation
Watertown Family Network
Watertown Housing Authority
Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist
Wayside Multi-Service Center

Send updates and revisions to Kathy Kopp, kkopp9@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Resources at a Glance</i> | 3 |
| <i>Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist</i> | 4 |
| <i>Resources for Rental Housing, Shelters, Eviction, Domestic Abuse</i> ... | 5 |
| <i>Fuel Assistance & Foreclosure Prevention</i> | 9 |
| <i>Becoming a Homeowner</i> | 10 |
| <i>Food Resources and Cash Assistance</i> | 11 |
| <i>Medical & Healthcare Resources</i> | 13 |
| <i>Employment & Educational Resources</i> | 14 |
| <i>High School Equivalency (HSE)</i> | 15 |
| <i>ESOL, Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency</i> | 16 |
| <i>Other Resources for Immigrants</i> | 18 |
| <i>Resources for Developing Computer Skills</i> | 19 |
| <i>Resources for Families</i> | 20 |
| <i>Resources for People with Disabilities</i> | 24 |
| <i>Resources for Elders</i> | 25 |
| <i>Resources for Veterans</i> | 26 |
| <i>Sources of Financial Assistance</i> | 27 |

Note: All Watertown addresses are listed without the town specified (Watertown, MA 02472); addresses outside Watertown have the city listed.

This document is online at website of Metro West Collaborative Development, www.metrowestcd.org .

Resources at a Glance

TOWN LIBRARY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Library – Main Branch | 617-972-6431 |
| Library – Children’s Department..... | 617-972-6435 |
| Project Literacy..... | 617-924-8797 |

EDUCATION

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Central Office (Office of the School Superintendent) | 617-926-7700 |
| Watertown High School | 617-926-7760 |
| Watertown Middle School | 617-926-7783 |
| Cunniff School | 617-926-7726 |
| Lowell School | 617-926-7770 |
| Hosmer School | 617-926-7740 |
| K-12 : Before and After School Programs / Summer Programs..... | 617 926-7764 |
| Watertown Community Education..... | 617-926-7764 |
| Early Steps Integrated Pre-school Program..... | 617-926-7765 |
| Watertown Family Network..... | 617-926-1661 |
| Parent Child Home Program..... | 617-926-6699 |

TOWN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center | 617-972-6490 |
| Watertown Food Pantry | 617-972-6429 |
| Watertown Health Department | 617-972-6446 |
| Watertown Public Works..... | 617-972-6420 |
| Watertown Recreation Department..... | 617-972-6494 |
| Watertown Recycling Center..... | 617-972-6413 |

NEED HELP?

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Al-anon..... | 508-366-0556 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous-Boston | 617-426-9444 |
| Battered Women Hotline | 800-899-4000 |
| Child Abuse Hotline | 800-792-5200 |
| Child Find, Inc. | 800-IAM-LOST |
| Fuel Assistance Programs / Heat Line..... | 800 632-8175 |
| Massachusetts Dept. of Transitional Assistance (DTA) hotline..... | 800-249-2007 |
| Massachusetts Dept. of Transitional Assistance, Chelsea office..... | 617-551-1700 |
| Medicaid Medical Assistance..... | 800-841-2900 |
| National Missing and Exploited Children..... | 800-843-5678 |
| Runaway Hotline - 24 Hour..... | 800-621-4000 |
| Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program..... | 781 894-6564 |
| Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist..... | 617-744-9585 |
| Wayside Multi-Service Center..... | 617-926-3600 |
| Emergency psychiatric help, from Wayside and Advocates, Inc. | 800-540-5806 |
| WIC-Watertown..... | 617-972-5502 |

ONLINE STATE-WIDE RESOURCE GUIDES

www.massresources.org

The State of Massachusetts website provides information about a wide range of assistance programs for people in need living in Massachusetts. E.g., information on benefits, how to apply, eligibility requirements, benefit amounts, and answers to commonly asked questions.

www.mass211.org

United Way online directory for assistance programs in Massachusetts.

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist (SSRS)

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist Program (SSRS)

617-744-9585

Staffed by Wayside Multi-Service Center

The SSRS is able to assist Watertown residents to connect to social services including food, fuel, housing and counseling resources.

The SSRS can:

- Accept fuel assistance applications and help complete applications for other social services assistance (SNAP, housing, etc.);
- Refer residents to any needed social services including counseling;
- Meet with residents in the community, if need be;
- Access translators for appointments when needed.

Services by appointment; the SSRS will return phone calls within 48 hours.

Resources for Rental Housing, Shelters, Eviction and Domestic Abuse

Most people find places to live through the PRIVATE MARKET. These are apartments and homes rented and sold through private owners, without government involvement. Some of this housing may be “affordable” to lower income people. But sometimes prices are too high for lower income people, who may need government-assisted housing. These units are often only open to legal US residents.

Types of government-assisted housing

- 1) “Public” Housing (Housing Authorities)
- 2) Rental “Vouchers” - Section 8
- 3) Other Affordable Housing (“Subsidized” Housing)

1. “Public” Housing, called Housing Authorities

Public housing is built, owned and operated by a state government agency called a Housing Authority. Most towns have them. Below are some pros and cons:

- You pay 30% of your income for rent – utilities may be included.
- You apply at each housing authority separately and wait times can be 1 to 10 years . (This is changing, and soon there will be centralized treatment of housing authority applications throughout the state.)
- Towns may have local preference, so it is usually best to apply where you live. Other situations may have priority as well eg, veterans, victims of domestic violence, victims of a fire, etc.

Quality of units and communities vary considerably.

Public Housing Resources Include:

- Watertown Housing Authority: 617-923-3950
- Belmont Housing Authority: 617-484-2160
- Newton Housing Authority: 617-552-5501
- Brookline Housing Authority: 617-277-2022
- Waltham Housing Authority: 781-894-3357

For more Authorities visit: Mass. Dept. of Housing at
www.mass.gov/dhcd.

2. Rental “Vouchers” such as Section 8

Rental vouchers are a government guarantee to a landlord that the rent will be paid. Usually, a Housing Authority signs a contract between the housing authority, the tenant and the private landlord establishing how much the tenant will pay and then how much the housing authority will pay directly to the landlord. You apply for Section 8 at Housing Authorities and there is a centralized wait-list online.

- You may use a rental voucher for any apartment as long as it passes a basic housing quality inspection **and** as long as the rent is within the Housing Authority’s PAYMENT STANDARD
- You pay 30% of your income for rent, the government pays the difference
- VERY long wait list: 8 to 10 years

Locate Rental Vouchers at

1. www.massnacro.org/S8_Home.php - to get on the centralized wait list
2. Local Housing Authorities (phone numbers above)

3. Other Affordable Housing, or “Subsidized” Housing

Subsidized housing is built, owned and operated by a private corporation (for-profit or non-profit) that received assistance of some kind from the government. The assistance may have been a loan, zoning relief, discounted land, etc. In exchange for that assistance the private corporation must agree to provide some units for lower income families. Below are some pros and cons of this housing:

- Rent may be a flat set amount OR you may pay 30% of your income for rent
- You must usually apply with each property management company separately
- Wait times are usually at least 2-3 years
- Condition of the units is usually good because it is heavily regulated
- Paperwork may be extensive

Locate Subsidized Housing at:

- www.MassHousing.com – click on “Rental Housing” and look up the MassHousing Housing List by development or town
- www.chapa.org – click on “Looking for Housing” and search MassAccess by town
- www.mbhp.org – click on “Apartment Listings”
- Boston Housing Authority “Available Unit List.” <http://www.bostonhousing.org/detpages/hservices422.html>

Metro West Collaborative Development (Metro West CD)

Metro West CD seeks to expand opportunities for “subsidized” housing.

Its mission is to create and preserve affordable housing, support economic development, and build alliances with partners and constituencies throughout the region in order to promote community development.

Its region includes towns from Brookline to Bolton, and from Concord to Natick.

This is how you can use Metro West CD to help find affordable housing:

1. **Get your name on the Regional READY Renter Program:** Metro West CD maintains a data base of households looking for apartments. Metro West CD staff also maintain a file of “live” apartment listings.
2. **Get your “papers” together workshop:** Most affordable housing will require that you gather considerable paperwork such as pay stubs, bank statements, birth certificates, etc. Metro West CD staff can help you sort your documents and be prepared for applying for apartments.
3. **Get your credit together workshop:** More landlords are looking at credit scores. Metro West CD staff can help you get your credit report and identify opportunities for improving your credit score.
4. **Know your rights and responsibilities of tenancy:** There are many legal obligations both you and your landlord have. Make sure you know them!
5. **Take other financial education workshops:** Periodically Metro West CD offers financial education workshops such as how to establish a budget, how to open a checking account, etc.

CONTACT ROBYN at 617-923-3505 x 5 to set up any of these services.

79-B Chapel St., Newton, MA 02458

617-923-3505

www.metrowestcd.org

4. Rooming Houses and Shelters

If you just need a roof over your head, you may look into “rooming houses,” where you rent a room, often with shared kitchens and/or bathrooms. Or you may need to find a shelter bed until you can get back on your feet.

Locate Rooming Houses and Shelters:

1. Caritas, for rooming houses
www.caritascommunities.org or call 781-843-1606
- 2.. Mass Dept. of Housing
www.mass.gov/dhcd, or call 800-231-4337
3. United Way’s First Call for Help: 800-231-4377

5. Rental Assistance - help with paying rent/other

RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition)

RAFT is a state-funded homelessness prevention program. RAFT gives short-term financial assistance to low-income families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. RAFT helps families who are behind on rent, mortgage payments, or utility bills. RAFT also helps families who have to move but do not have enough money to pay a security deposit, utility startup costs, or first/last month’s rent. Families can get up to \$4000 within a 12-month period.

1-800-224-5124

www.massresources.org/raft.html

6. Furniture Assistance - for families with demonstrated need

Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts (HGRM)

Household Goods Inc. provides household goods (beds, other furniture and housing items), free of charge, to people in need, limited to what is in their inventory. Clients need to be referred by a provider organization.

530 Main St, Acton 01720

978-635-1710

www.hgrm.org

Fair Housing / Tenants' Rights / Evictions

The Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston investigates cases of housing discrimination (both rental and homeownership), and provides legal advocacy.

617-399-0491

www.bostonfairhousing.org/

The Waltham Alliance To Create Housing (WATCH)

WATCH can help resolve tenant-landlord disputes. They also offer a wide variety of workshops related to housing, and have some free legal services through Boston College Law School.

24 Crescent St., suite 201, Waltham MA 02453

781-891-6689

www.watchcdc.org

Community Dispute Settlement Center, Inc.

CDSC is a private, not-for-profit mediation and training center dedicated to providing an alternative and affordable forum for resolving conflict.

60 Gore Street, Suite 202

Cambridge, MA 02141-1236

617- 876-5376

www.communitydispute.org

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

Main office in Boston; local office in Cambridge

800-323-3205

www.gbls.org/immigration/index.htm

Domestic Abuse

In an emergency, call 9-1-1 .

In a non-emergency, call Detective Kathleen Campbell of the Watertown Police at 617-972-6545 for helpful information.

Resource organizations for battered persons include:

- SafeLink is the statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline operated by Casa Myrna in Waltham. Its hotline staff are multilingual.
hotline: 877-785-2020
www.casamyrna.org/safelink.html
- REACH (Waltham): www.reachma.org: hotline: 800-899-4000
- RESPOND (Somerville): www.respondinc.org: hotline: 617-623-5900

Fuel Assistance & Foreclosure Prevention

Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP)

Available for both homeowners and tenants meeting requirements.

Watertown Social Services Resources Specialist

Danielle DeMoss

617 744 -9585 or email danielle_demoss@waysideyouth.org

Danielle is authorized to take applications for Fuel Assistance. She can meet residents at the Watertown Library to complete an application.

The Senior Center

31 Marshall St.

617- 972-6490

Seniors, age 60 and over, may apply at the local Watertown Senior Center, Nov. through April.

Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI)

17 Kirk St., Lowell, MA 018542

www.commteam.org/

978 459-0551

Apply between Nov. and April.

Foreclosure Prevention and Credit Counseling

The Boston Home Center

One-stop source for information on homeownership, refinancing, foreclosure prevention, and home repairs.

617-635-HOME (4663)

www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/bhc/

CCS of Southern New England, Affiliated with Money Management International

8 Winter Street, Boston, MA

Tel: 866-889-9347

www.creditcounseling.org

Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services

CNAHS provides free foreclosure prevention counseling to distressed homeowners in

Cambridge and four neighboring towns including Watertown.

280 Franklin Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

617-491-1545

www.cambridgenahs.org

Becoming a Homeowner: Resources

1. Take a Class

There are many programs to assist aspiring homebuyers in this challenging market. Almost all require that the buyer complete a first-time-homebuyer class that is certified by the Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative. Taking the class is a great way to familiarize buyers with the nuts and bolts of the process. A schedule of classes is available at Citizens' Housing and Planning Organization (CHAPA) at www.chapa.org.

2. Find a Home

Zoning regulations often require real estate developers (both for-profit and non-profit) to designate a proportion of new units to low- and moderate-income households. These units are much less expensive than the market-rate ones, and they are filled via lottery. Applicants submit documentation to the “marketing agent” (can be a nonprofit, a municipality, or the developer itself), and the eligible “winners” are literally picked out of a hat. The homes are deed-restricted, which means buyers make little—if any—profit on the eventual resale of their homes. Income and asset limits apply and vary by project.

Most lotteries are announced in local publications and through community outreach. There is also a centralized list of lotteries maintained by the Mass Affordable Housing Alliance at www.massaffordablehomes.org and by CHAPA at www.chapa.org.

3. Find a Mortgage

Many banks and mortgage companies offer special rates and resources for first-time buyers. The SoftSecond mortgage program can significantly lower monthly payments and eliminate private mortgage insurance (PMI). Some banks will also waive or reduce closing costs for first-time buyers. There are also special programs for public transit riders, municipal employees, and other special populations. Income limits tend to be higher for these programs, so more people are eligible.

The most comprehensive resources include:

Mass Housing Partnership (SoftSecond): www.mhp.net

MassHousing (Municipal, Take the T, and other programs): www.masshousing.com

Food Resources and Cash Assistance

Food Resources

All Households:

- Watertown Food Pantry: (617) 972-6429
Tuesday 10:00- 11:30 A.M, Thursday 4:00- 6:00 P.M.
80 Mt. Auburn St. (basement of St. John's United Methodist Church)
- St. Patrick Parish Food Pantry: (617) 926-7121,
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 –11:30 A.M.
St. Patrick's Church, 26 Chestnut St.
- Salvation Army: (781) 894-0413,
H.O.P.E. Kitchen breakfast and lunch meals served served. Mon – Fri 10-noon.
33 Myrtle St., Waltham (off Moody St.)
- Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen (781) 894-1611, daily hot meal at 5:00 p.m.
545 Moody St., Waltham
- Watertown Council on Aging (617) 972-6490, Town Emergency Funds, one time food voucher. 31 Marshall St.
- FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333 Staffed by Project Bread, it provides information and referral to food programs in all of eastern Massachusetts (140 languages and a TTY line) Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- SERVE New England (888) 742-7363, low cost food packages for those willing to volunteer 2 hours a month. www.servenewengland.org

Households with Children:

- WIC (Women, Infants & Children), 1-800-WIC-1007, food and formula vouchers for low and moderate-income pregnant or nursing women, and children under five.
www.fns.usda.gov/wic/howtoapply
Watertown WIC Program, at Harvard-Vanguard, 485 Arsenal St.: (617) 972-5502
- Free or Low Cost School Lunch & Breakfast: Contact school guidance counselor or principal for information and an application to the programs.
www.meals4kids.org

Households with Seniors:

- Springwell : (617) 926-4100
- Watertown Council on Aging: (617) 972-6490, 31 Marshall St..
- The Senior Shuttle, available through Council on Aging, provides transportation to local supermarkets twice a week for a requested donation of a quarter.

Food Stamps (renamed SNAP):

Available for low-income persons, both single and families. There is a process for both first-time application, and “re-certification”. The rules concerning food stamp eligibility are complex and change frequently. People are encouraged to check their eligibility yearly. The program is administered through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) in Massachusetts, unless a person is receiving Social Security. SNAP food stamps are for U.S. citizens and *eligible noncitizens* with limited incomes who buy food and make meals at home. People living in homeless shelters, group homes for people with disabilities, drug and alcohol treatment

centers, and subsidized elderly housing are also eligible. Some people must work to qualify for , while others are exempt from the work requirement.

Questions and Applications about food stamps– Dept. of Transitional Assistance (DTA)

The DTA, under the office of Health and Human Services, assists low income individuals and families to meet basic needs, including food, jobs, cash assistance, emergency shelter and domestic violence. The principal DTA office for Watertown is in Chelsea.

Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)

80 Everett Ave., Chelsea 02150

Mon – Fri , 7am - 5pm

Tel 617-551-1700 Fax 617-887-8765

www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/dta

Online application for Food Stamps/SNAP , in multiple languages.

www.mass.gov/dta. Under Services at left, click on “Apply for SNAP” ; New applicants only; not for re-certification.

More information:

Project Bread, FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333 . www.gettingfoodstamps.org .

Mass Legal Services has an online SNAP *Advocacy Guide*. www.masslegalservices.org/content/2014-food-stamp-snap-advocacy-guide

Cash Assistance Programs

The applicant may be entitled to the services of an interpreter in determining eligibility for assistance programs.

These programs give financial help and other benefits to families with limited income, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Cash assistance programs are for Massachusetts residents who need help paying basic living expenses.

For description of all programs, see www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dta/cash-assistance.html www.massresources.org/area_assistance.cfm?pageID=4

Aid to Families with Children (TAFDC)

This is the cash assistance program for families with children, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children. It is a government program that gives cash assistance and other benefits to low-income families with dependent children. TAFDC is sometimes called "welfare" or "public assistance." You must have a child or be pregnant to qualify , and you must have little income and few assets. Many families must also meet work and school requirements. This program is administered by the DTA. (See Chelsea location and phone numbers above.)

Other Services – free Income Tax Return Preparation

The IRS offers Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for Elderly (TCE).

Bentley University, Waltham, 781 891-2714 (VITA site)

Free income tax preparation for low-income persons, through early April.

The Senior Center, 31 Marshall St., 617-972-6490 (TCE site)

Income tax preparation assistance for seniors.

Charles River Public Internet Center, 154 Moody St., Waltham 781-891-9559 x206 (VITA site)

Medical & Healthcare Resources

MassHealth -administered by the Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services.

A public health insurance program for low- to medium-income residents of Massachusetts. Combination of Medicaid and SCHIP programs in MA. MassHealth covers: children, parents and caretakers of children, adults working for small employers, unemployed individuals, pregnant women, disabled individuals, Department of Mental Health clients, HIV positive individuals, elderly people, women with breast or cervical cancer, and people in need of long-term care. If you have health insurance, you may still be eligible for MassHealth. Generally, eligibility is based on family income. To apply:

MassHealth Enrollment Center at 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997).

More information and online application at www.mass.gov/masshealth

Health Safety Net (“Free Care”)

-administered by the Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services.

A program for residents who are not eligible for health insurance or can't afford to buy it. You must be uninsured or underinsured, with no access to affordable health coverage. People of any income with large medical bills that they cannot pay are also eligible. Citizenship or immigration status does not affect eligibility.

Low Income patients - file a MassHealth application (see above).

Medical hardships (any income) - file a separate Medical Hardship application.

1-877-910-2100

Mass Health Connector

An independent state agency that helps residents find health insurance coverage and avoid tax penalties. Runs Mass Connector Care, a free healthcare plan for uninsured low-moderate income MA residents. 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765)

www.mahealthconnector.org

Wayside Multi-Service Center provides prevention, outreach and counseling services to children, adolescents and families of Watertown and surrounding communities. Programs include youth development and leadership, student assistance programming, substance abuse, violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, in-home therapy, outpatient counseling, crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies and parent support programs.

127 North Beacon St., 617 926-3600

www.waysideyouth.org and www.watertownyouthcoalition.org

- For Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist, call 617 744-9585
- Emergency psychiatric services and crisis intervention, provided by Wayside and Advocates, Inc. of Waltham: 1-800-540-5806

Free/low cost medical clinics

Immanuel Church
545 Moody St., Waltham
(Basement entrance on Cherry St.)
Monday 6-8pm 617 638-4701

Joseph Smith Community Health Care
564 Main St., Waltham 02452
617 783-0500 www.jmschc.org/

General Resources

Health Care for All
Questions on health care resources
Helpline 617-350-7279
www.hcfa.org

Low-cost dental services

www.massresources.org/dental-care.html

Boston University School of Dental Medicine
100 East Newton St., Boston

Tufts Dental Clinic, 1 Kneeland St., Boston
617-636-6791

Health Law Advocates

Health related legal issues, including representation. 617 338-5241
www.healthlawadvocates.org

Employment & Educational Resources

These organizations help individuals (citizens, immigrants, refugees) find job training, employment and help in building careers. They offer a range of services, from job search to training and more, some free and some at cost. They may serve those seeking entry level jobs, as well as those seeking professional occupations. They work with employers to place job seekers. Services may change over time. Review websites for specific services available.

JVS

A leading organization in job skills, career planning and employment.
29 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108
617-542-1993
www.jvs-boston.org/

Asian American Civic Association

English classes, social services, job training, college preparation.
87 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111
617 426-9492
<http://aaca-boston.org/>

YMCA Training, Inc.

Core training in certain specialties.
18 Tremont Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02108
617-542-1800
<http://www.ymcaboston.org/traininginc/traininginc-our-cause>

One-Stop Career Centers

A network of "One-Stop Career Centers" throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts form the foundation of the state's delivery system for employment and training services for job seekers, employers, and their workers.

Employment and Training Resources (ETR)

1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01701-5408
508-766-5700
www.etrcc.com

Career Source

186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Suite 310, Cambridge (Fresh Pond Mall), MA
617-661-7867
www.yourcareersource.com

Allston Brighton Resource Center

367 Western Ave., Brighton, MA 02135
617-562-57

Clothing for the Workplace

Dress for Success
989 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA. 02215
(617) 779-2177 www.dressforsuccess.org
Offers low income women clothing and training for transition to workplace.

High School Equivalency or HSE - HiSET Test (formerly GED)

Persons who have not graduated from high school or are not enrolled may obtain a high school equivalency degree by passing a test that demonstrates high school equivalency. There are also State requirements with regard to age, the length of time since school, and residency in order to take the test.

See Massachusetts requirements at www.hiset.ets.org/requirements/ma/

Prior to 2014, this test was the General Educational Development Test (GED) . This changed as of 2014. *Now, high school equivalency is obtained by passing the HiSET test.* HiSET is administered by the Educational Testing Services (ETS).

See ETS website at www.hiset.ets.org/.

A high school equivalency diploma is recognized as key to employment opportunities, advancement, further education, and financial rewards. These tests are under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Their website will be updated eventually.

State website at www.doe.mass.edu/hse/

The HiSET exam has five sections: Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. More information about the test can be found at the Educational Testing Service website (see above reference).

Within a few years, the high school equivalency test will be modified for greater emphasis on writing skills.

Preparation books for HiSET are available at the Watertown Free Public Library. Also available online through the library are several databases of practice materials. To access these, go the Watertown Free Public Library web-site, www.watertownlib.org, click on the research tab at the top, then click on "Online Resources" on the left. The two resources that will be most helpful are [Learning Express Library - Learn a Test](#) and *Student Edition*.

Many adult education programs sponsored by local school districts, colleges, and some community organizations, provide instruction for HiSET. You can talk to the teachers at these adult education programs, to decide whether you need to study for all of the tests, or if you only need to brush up on certain skills. The programs closest to Watertown are:

- Community Learning Center, 5 Western Ave., Cambridge, 617-349-6363
- Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition, Jackson-Mann Community Center, 500 Cambridge St. Allston, 617-635-5153

ESOL, Adult Basic Education (ABE) and & High School Equivalency (HSE)

Programs with Free Classes

Project Literacy
Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main Street, **Watertown**, MA 02472
617-924-8797
<http://watertownlib.org/projectliteracy>
(ESOL classes and tutoring)

Cambridge Public Library
Most at **Central Square** branch
617-349-4013
www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/Services/theliteracyproject
Free ESL classes at all levels

Jackson-Mann Community School
500 Cambridge Street, **Allston**, MA
617-635-5153
(ABE & ESOL classes)

Concilio Hispano
105 Windsor Street, **Cambridge**, MA 02139
617-661-9406
www.conciliohispano.org
(ESOL, Spanish HSE, Spanish Literacy)

Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)
167 Holland Street, **Somerville**, MA
617-629-5500 , ext 6900
Affiliated with Somerville public schools
(ESOL & ABE/HSE classes)

Greater Boston YMCA
316 Huntington Avenue, **Boston**, MA
617-536-7800
(ESOL classes)

Jewish Vocational Services
29 West Street, **Boston**, MA
617-423-8660 ext. 309
(ESOL classes)

Community Learning Center
5 Western Ave., **Cambridge**, MA
617-349-6363
www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~DHSP/clc/
(only ABE/HSE classes for non-Cambridge residents)

The Boston Language Institute
Kenmore Square
648 Beacon St., **Boston**, MA 02215
617-262-3500
Free classes T/W/Th afternoons & Sat. morning

Free Tutoring or Conversation Programs

A Legacy for Literacy
Newton Public Library
330 Homer Street, **Newton**, MA 02459
617-796-1364
legacyforliteracy@yahoo.com
(ESOL Tutoring & Citizenship)

Boston Public Library, Honan-Allston Branch
300 N. Harvard St., **Allston**
Tues. 11:30-4:30, Wed. 12-1 pm, 6-7:30 pm, Fri. 10 am-noon
Conversation groups

English at Large
400 High Street, **Medford**, MA 02155
781-395-2374
www.englishatlarge.com

Programs that Cost \$

Bunker Hill Community College
Room B109, Charlestown Campus
250 New Rutherford Avenue, **Charlestown**, MA
617-228-2468
www.bhcc.mass.edu/ES/AssessmentCenter/
(ESOL classes)

Cambridge Center for Adult Education
42 Brattle Street, **Cambridge**, MA
617-547-6789
www.ccae.org
(ESOL classes)

Newton Community Education
360 Lowell Avenue, **Newtonville**, MA
617-552-7461
(ESOL classes)

Information about Other Programs

Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline
1-800-447-8844
www.sabes.org/hotl

Other Resources for Immigrants

State website for comprehensive list of resources for immigrants.

www.massresources.org/eligibility-tools.html

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Promotes the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees. Will provide referrals to organizations which serve individuals.

617 350-5480

www.miracoalition.org

TERI College Access

Information on education beyond high school, including access to college and student loans.

Located at public libraries, including Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston

1-877-332-4348

Library websites

Most public library websites have links to other organizations which offer services, free or with a fee, for immigrants. Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

<http://mblc.state.ma.us/libraries/index.php>

Legal Help

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

800-323-3205

www.gbls.org/immigration/

Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau

885 Center St., Newton 02459

617-552-0248

www.mlac.org/programs.html

International Institute

One Milk Street , Boston, MA 02109

617 695-9990

www.iiboston.org

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau

(617) 495-4408

Resource directory: www.harvardlegalaid.org/legal-services

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

www.massresources.org/area_assistance.cfm?pageID=19&MainPage='yes'

Translation Tools

- Most websites offer a translation feature allowing the reader to view website in other languages; frequently located at the top, bottom or side of page. Or users may copy English data in to Google Translate at <https://translate.google.com>
- Immigrants should inquire whether there are services of an interpreter when dealing with hospitals and government agencies.

Multi-lingual Watertown Resource Map

A resource map of Watertown - with detailed information written in English, Chinese, Western Armenian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian - is available free at the Watertown library and at other sites in the community. It is also online at the Library and at the Town websites. It was produced by a group of community organizations. www.watertownlib.org/

Watertown Public School website accessible in multiple languages. www.watertown.k12.ma.us

Town of Watertown website accessible in multiple languages. www.ci.watertown.ma.us

Resources for Developing Computer Skills

The Watertown Free Public Library offers free computer classes. English Language Learners contact Project Literacy at 617-924-8797 or email jbayer@watertown-ma.gov
Others contact the Reference Department at 617-972-6436

Charles River Public Internet Center

The Charles River Public Internet Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to advance computer technology and literacy for adults and youth. It has computers available on a donation basis, as available. Services include: free Internet and computer access, instructional courses, professional staff availability, one-on-one tutoring. Assistive technologies such as large screen monitors, and screen magnification software are available upon request.

154 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453

781-891-9559

www.crpic.org

Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center

31 Marshall Street

617-972-6490

Introduction to the computer and internet - for adults over 60 years old with little or no computer experience to learn how to navigate the internet and access email. The course meets for an hour once a week for four weeks and costs \$20. Sign up by calling the Senior Center.

Watertown Community Education

Watertown High School

50 Columbia Street

617-926-7764

Fall and Spring courses.

Catalogs at www.watertown.k12.ma.us/dept/wce

or email rfoglia@watertown.k12.ma.us

Resources for Families

1. Childcare and Education

The Mass. Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) This new state department combines the functions of the Office of Child Care Services (OCCS) with those of the Early Learning Services Division at the Department of Education. The Department of EEC is the place for parents and child care providers to get answers to important questions about child care and early education. The agency's aim is to make sure all children receive the highest quality child care from providers in Massachusetts.

617-988-6600

www.eec.state.ma.us

For a list of licensed preschool, home and center-based programs by town, see <http://childcarecircuit.org/parents/parents1.html>

Child Care Circuit

This is where parents may apply for child care financial assistance from the State ("vouchers"). This is a child care resource and referral agency dedicated to making quality child care accessible to every family that needs it. It serves both parents and child care providers.

For parents, it provides child care resources and referral services, education and support, as well as access to financial assistance ("vouchers") for child care for income-eligible families. For child care providers and caregivers, it provide training, professional development and support services.

190 Hampshire St., Lawrence, MA 01840

(800) 660-2868

www.childcarecircuit.org/

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant (CFCE)

The goals of CFCE are to provide information about early education and care programs to all families, including those in hard to reach populations. This includes promoting family education, early literacy activities and support for parental networks and for public and private programs; as well as access to early intervention and inclusion of those with special needs. The overall goal is to create a seamless transition to the public school system.

617 926-7762

The component organizations of CFCE are CPC, WFN and PCHP:

Community Partnerships for Children (CPC)

Works directly with Early Care providers in Watertown through conferences, professional development, national accreditation and on-site support, as well as through community events, workshops, and transition events for children entering kindergarten.

617 926-7762

Watertown Family Network (WFN)

The Watertown Family Network provides a variety of services to families with children from birth through age three. Ongoing activities include: drop in playtimes, playgroups, parent education workshops, support groups, a parent resource library, special musical concerts, family events, and much more. This is a free service through a grant from the Department of Early Education and Care.

30 Common St.

617 926-1661

www.watertown.k12.ma.us/wfn

Email: watertownfamilynetwork@gmail.com

Parent Child Home Program (PCHP)

This free program is a home-visiting “learning through play” experience for parents and their pre-school children. Home visits develop a child’s capacity for communication, prepare a foundation for success in school, help mothers and fathers become confident parents, and strengthen the parent-child relationship through positive interactions. In addition, families are encouraged to experience community activities for preschoolers and are informed about local resources for families.

Watertown families with children between the ages of 16 months to 4 years are enrolled based on need.

c/o Watertown Public Schools
30 Common St.
617- 926- 6699

www.parent-child.org

Email: linda.krieger@watertown.k12.ma.us

Newton-Watertown Creative Start

School for toddlers and preschoolers, with funding available based on income.

573-B Washington St., Newton 02458

617 926-1082

www.communitiesunitedinc.org/newton-watertown_creative_start

2. Other Support Organizations

Parents Helping Parents (PHP)

PHP's mission is to promote and support healthy parent/child relationships and break the cycle of child abuse through peer-led, professionally facilitated mutual help groups. PHP provides a nurturing, non-judgmental environment in which to improve family relationships.

108 Water Street

Main number: 800-882-1250

Parental Stress Line: 800-632-8188

www.parentshelpingparents.org

Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) JFCS offers a whole range of programs designed to strengthen families and individuals. Their Center for Early Relationship Support is a resource for every family. The Center’s programs include Visiting Moms--a home visit program for parents, and support groups such as the New Mothers Group for issues on sleep, feeding and parenting consultations.

1430 Main Street, Waltham

781-647-5327

www.jfcsboston.org

Healthy Families

Healthy Families is a prevention program consisting of home visits and group activities for teen mothers. Participation in the program is voluntary. Young mothers are provided with support, information on child development, and help finding community resources. Women under age 20 who are pregnant with their first child are eligible to enroll. This program is available through Jewish Family & Children's Services, Waltham.

617-614-1922

Wayside Multi-Service Center provides prevention, outreach and counseling services to children, adolescents and families of Watertown and surrounding communities. Programs include youth development and leadership, student assistance programming, substance abuse, violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, in-home therapy, outpatient counseling, crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies and parent support programs.

127 North Beacon St.

617-926-3600

www.waysideyouth.org and www.watertownyouthcoalition.org

- Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist.
To be connected to social services including fuel, food, housing and counseling resources, please call 617-744-9585 .
- Emergency psychiatric services and crisis intervention, provided by Wayside and Advocates, Inc. of Waltham: 1-800-540-5806

Freedman Center for Child and Family Development

Provides parents with a forum to meet, locate resources, learn about parenting, and find programs for children. Offers support groups for parents, playgroups for children and access to professional services for families.

One Wells Ave., Newton 02459

617-244-INFO/www.mspp.edu/community/freedman-center/

3. Early Intervention and Screening Programs

Early Intervention, Birth to Age 3 – Services provided by State

Early intervention in Massachusetts is a statewide service, through the Office of Health and Human Services, available to families of children from birth up to 3 years who have a diagnosis, developmental delay, or who may be at risk for developmental delays based on birth history or environment. Services include assessments, home visits, parent/child groups and family support. Early intervention programs are funded by insurances and/or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

When the child is 2 ½ years old, discussions occur with the family of a child receiving services to review options available when the child turns 3 and to assist the transition to services provided by the public schools.

www.massresources.org/early-intervention.html

Every family is entitled to a developmental assessment for their child and may have their child re-assessed every six months prior to age three.

Any individual may make a referral to early intervention. However it is a voluntary service and it is the family's decision to pursue an evaluation and if needed, services. To obtain an assessment, the individual or family would contact Thom Charles River (see below), which is responsible for early intervention evaluation and services for Watertown.

Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program

Thom Child & Family Services offers intervention and support for Watertown children, birth to three year old, who have developmental difficulties due to identified disabilities or whose development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

411 Waverley Oaks Rd. Building #3, Suite 305, Waltham

781-894-6564

www.thomchild.org

Age 3 and Older – Services provided through Watertown Public School

Once a child has reached three years of age, he/she may be eligible for services through the Watertown Public Schools. These services are available after screening and evaluation.

Any parent may request a screening of their child to determine if the child is eligible for services of the Watertown Public Schools.

Early Childhood Center, Watertown Public Schools

For screening, 617- 926-7765

4. Recreation

Watertown Recreation Department

Free and low-cost activities for adults and children. Call or go online to be listed on their notification list of activities.

617-972-6494.

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/index.aspx?NID=138

Watertown Boys and Girls Club

25 Whites Avenue

617 926 0968

Social, educational and recreational programs for children ages 7-18. Swimming pool. Summer camp.

www.watertownbgc.org

Dealtry Pool

Free outdoor swimming pools for adults and toddlers, part of the State Park system (DCR).

138 Pleasant St.

(617) 923-0073

Massachusetts Parks Pass

Low-cost annual access to State Park system for swimming, boating, beaches, hiking and more.

\$35 for annual usage per car.

617-626-1250

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/places-to-go/

For obtaining a park pass, see

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/buy-parks-pass-dcr-generic.html

5. Local Summer Camps/Programs for school-age children

Programs are run by the Watertown Public Schools, by the Recreation Dept. of the Town of Watertown, and by the Watertown Boys and Girls Club.

Resources for People with Disabilities

Watertown Commission on Disability (WCOD)

The Commission sponsors activities and programs encouraging municipal and community services, programs, and businesses in Watertown to be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

617-972 6443

www.wcod.org

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP is a division of the Massachusetts Office on Disability. It provides advocacy and information services. It helps people get services from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and the Independent Living Centers in Massachusetts, all of which receive Federal money under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

617- 727-7440 or toll free at 1 800 322-2020.

www.icdri.org/legal/MassachusettsCAP.htm

Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

Beaverbrook STEP offers a range of supports and resources for men and women with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In addition to both residential and day activity / employment programs, the organization provides advocacy and placement services addressing the needs of individuals and their families.

85 Main St., 2nd Floor

617- 926-1113

www.beaverbrookstep.org

Guide to Watertown's Accessible Dining Establishments

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/12752

Resources for Elders

Marshall Home Fund

Provides financial assistance for programs serving the elderly in Watertown, and to individuals age 55 and over who are experiencing financial difficulties. Individuals must apply through an agency or town department, such as the Council on Aging ([617 972 6490](tel:6179726490)) or Springwell ([617 926 4100](tel:6179264100)).

For further information write to:

The Marshall Home Fund
120 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472
617- 972- 64904,
or email: info@marshallhomefund.org
www.marshallhomefund.org

Springwell

Springwell is a private, non-profit agency that serves seniors, individuals with disabilities and those who provide care.

Services include: information and referral specialists, free in-home consultations, in-home services and on-going case management. Some services are free, some are offered on a fee basis and some are subsidized by the government. Springwell also operates the Meals on Wheels program and is the Protective Services Agency (to prevent elder abuse) for seniors.

307 Waverley Oaks Rd., Suite 205, Waltham 02452

617- 926-4100

email: inforef@springwell.com

www.springwell.com

Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center

The Council on Aging, a department of the Town of Watertown, provides programs and services for Watertown residents 60 and older and their families which include: information and referral, outreach, shopping bus, health insurance counseling, income tax assistance, medical transportation and a variety of health, educational, and recreational activities at The Senior Center. The Council is authorized to accept fuel assistance applications as well (age 60 and over) .

31 Marshall St.

617-972-6490

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/index.aspx?NID=128

Comprehensive resource guide on elder services from Watertown Council on Aging

www.watertown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/904

Resources for Veterans

Veterans Services Office, Town of Watertown

Aids and assists veterans and their dependents in many ways, including: healthcare, eligibility for State financial assistance, financing of new homes, Social Security eligibility, educational benefits, employment opportunities, military funeral assistance, and assistance to families of mobilized service members. In addition to working with federal and state organizations, it also works with local organizations which serve veterans.

Veteran Service Officer

149 Main St., Office B-3

617- 972-6416

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/index.aspx?NID=275

Sources of Financial Assistance

The Helen Robinson Wright Fund of the First Parish of Watertown

Provides small cash grants for Watertown residents with emergency needs

Contact the First Parish

35 Church St.

617 924 6143

www.fpwatertown.org

The Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation

Provides grants and supplies to families and child-serving organizations.

www.millertracychildrensfoundation.com

The Watertown Police Department can help with holiday gifts for families in need.

Contact: Police Chief, 617-972-6533

The Council on Aging manages a small emergency fund.

Contact Caryl Fox, 617-972-6490