

Family Services Committee Meeting - 12/14/21

In attendance: Barbara Agosto, New England Farm Workers, Sarah Bridges, Christina's House, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Danielle Hartner, CHD, Paula Kularski, Behavioral Health Network, Jane Lindfors, DTA-DV unit, Nora Lutz, Housing Navigator, Emily Matney, Gandara Center, Matt Montanaro, Monique Osbourne, YWCA, Stacy Parsons, North Adams Schools and DESE liaison, Brett Rogers, Head Start, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Carlton Smith, Way Finders, Eileen Tosado, Way Finders, Melissa White, VOC

Family Shelter data review: Please see [here](#).

Rental Assistance: Way Finders is receiving 110-140 applications each day; processing time is 6 weeks. Changes coming in January - new restrictions to extend funds (estimations that they will be fully expended by April) which are deeply concerning in view of the demand. Advocacy happening to utilize state ARPA funds to maintain the program as is. Stay tuned for more.

Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF): New program up and running (official start 1/1) to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn more here: <https://massmortgagehelp.org/>

Housing Navigator MA: Nora Lutz of [Housing Navigator](#) presented on this [new tool](#) that offers a "one stop shop" of all the income-restricted, permanent rental housing in MA. See the Powerpoint shared [here](#). If you want to sign up for the Housing Navigator mailing list or to have new listings sent to you directly, [please go here](#). If you want to sign up for an hour-long provider-focused demo for your organization, [please go here](#). Over 2,000 visible properties on the website. Please [see the website](#) or contact Nora at hello@housingnavigator.org for more info.

State and Local ARPA updates: The Governor signed the state ARPA budget yesterday which includes \$600 million in housing funds, including \$150 million for permanent supportive housing, \$150 million for public housing, \$115 million for rental housing production and more. It also includes Senator Comerford's earmarks for \$50,000 in overflow winter non-congregate shelter (\$25,000 to CHD for Franklin County; \$25,000 to Craig's Doors for Hampshire County); \$128,000 for the permanent supportive housing project in Northampton; and from Senator Hinds \$75,000 for the Louison House's non-congregate shelter in the Northern Berkshires.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 11, 11 am - 12 noon