

OFFICE OF HOUSING STABILITY

FACT SHEET

Boston's population continues to grow, and Mayor Martin J. Walsh is committed to creating a city in which long-term residents, especially tenants in changing neighborhoods, can still call Boston their home. Mayor Walsh's vision of Boston as a city where all individuals can find safe, stable, and affordable housing led to the 2016 creation of the Office of Housing Stability (OHS), the first of its kind in the nation.

Housed within the Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston's Office of Housing Stability has three (3) primary goals which it executes by developing resources, policy proposals, and new legislation:

1. Assist Bostonians with identifying and accessing rental housing they can afford.
2. Ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights and responsibilities.
3. Guide Bostonians through rental housing emergencies and provide resources to prevent households from falling into homelessness.

Resources developed for tenants and landlords by OHS include the following:

- Guides: Renting in Boston, Landlord Responsibilities, Information for Victims of Fire, and Eviction Prevention and Assistance
- Workshops: Housing Search, Rights & Responsibilities for Landlords and Tenants
- Direct Service: housing crisis coordinators responding to walk-ins, calls, and emails either through direct assistance or referrals to vendors vetted by DND
- Mediation Services: refers Boston residents and landlords to low-to-no cost mediation services to resolve disputes proactively
- Metrolist: an online tool for affordable housing search throughout Boston
- Landlord Guarantee Pilot: matches qualified low-income tenants with landlords

OHS works closely with multiple City agencies to analyze relevant data and to develop and propose policy reforms that will address housing stability on a grand scale. The values of sustained housing affordability and healthy landlord-tenant relationships inform the policy proposals that OHS generates. Please see the OHS Proposed Policies flyer for more information on current policy proposals.

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City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



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