

Lew Finfer

Lew Finfer has been a community organizer in Massachusetts since 1970. He was introduced to community organizing by volunteering in the Civil Rights Movement in 1968.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Lew worked at these organizations: First as an organizer for Dorchester Tenants Action Council, then he became the Director of Dorchester Community Action Council and Director of Dorchester Fair Share, part of MA Fair Share.

Through the late 1970s to early 2000s, Lew served as Director of Somerville United Neighborhoods, Co-Director and Director of MA Tenants Organization, Director of MA Affordable Housing Alliance; and as Co-Director and Director of Greater Boston Interfaith Organization.

Lew served as Director of MA Communities Action Network (MCAN) from 1985-2020 and then as Senior Advisor 2021-2022. Through his work along with others, MCAN grew to 8 faith and values- based organizations fighting for systemic change in cities across MA. While at MCAN, Lew also served on the Steering Committee for the Raise UP MA Coalition and as a Co-Chair. Raise UP MA organized and won two Minimum Wage

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increases up to \$15 an hour; Earned Sick Days for 900,000 workers; Paid Family Medical Leave potentially benefiting 90% of residents; and passage of the Fair Share Millionaires' Tax that funds education and transportation with \$7.3 billion to date. Currently, Lew serves as Director of MA Action for Justice, addressing state budget funding for youth programming, reentry services, and job training. He also staffs the Vocational Education Justice Coalition, reforming vocational school admissions to a more equitable lottery-based system. Additionally, Lew is the Director of the commemorative Boston Desegregation and Busing Initiative. Lew conducts Walking Tours on Redlining and Blockbusting in Dorchester-Mattapan 1968-1974 and on Boston Desegregation and Busing in the 1960s-1980.