

Watertown 2008 Community Resource Directory

Beginning in 2005, Watertown organizations formed a working group to identify the needs and resources of our community. In conversations with residents and service providers, the need for a comprehensive guide to local services came up again and again.

Group members submitted their referral lists to Watertown Community Housing, and the compiled document comprises our first-ever community resource directory.

Feel free to download this document and circulate widely. Document will be updated once a year, in the fall. Send updates, revisions, and additions to Mason Sand: mason@watertowncommunityhousing.org.

Table of Contents

<i>Resources at a Glance</i>	2
<i>Resources for Rental Housing & Shelter</i>	3
<i>Fuel Assistance & Foreclosure Prevention</i>	6
<i>Resources for Housing: Homeownership</i>	7
<i>Food Resources</i>	8
<i>Medical & Healthcare Resources</i>	10
<i>Employment & Educational Resources</i>	11
<i>GED General Information</i>	13
<i>ESOL, Adult Basic Education & GED Resources</i>	15
<i>Resources for Developing Computer Skills</i>	16
<i>Resources for Immigrants</i>	17
<i>Resources for Families</i>	19
<i>Resources for People with Disabilities</i>	22
<i>Resources for Elders</i>	23
<i>Sources of Financial Assistance</i>	24

Resources at a Glance

TOWN LIBRARY

Library – Main Branch	617-972-6431
Library – Children’ Department	617-972-6435

EDUCATION

Central Office (Office of the 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
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 Recycling Center.....	617-972-6413

NEED HELP?

Alanon.....	781-843-5300
Alcoholics Anonymous-Boston.....	617-426-9444
Battered Women Hotline	800-899-4000
Child Abuse Hotline.....	800-792-5200
Child Find, Inc.	800-IAM-LOST
Energy Information.....	800-723-6374
Mass Health.....	800-841-2900
National Missing and Exploited Children.....	800-843-5678
Project Literacy.....	617-924-8797
Runaway Hotline - 24 Hour.....	800-621-4000
Wayside Multi-Service Center.....	617-926-3600
WIC-Watertown.....	617-972-5502

Resources for Rental Housing & Shelter

Identifying affordable rental housing can be a real challenge. Resources are poorly coordinated, and the demand far exceeds supply. For this reason, applicants must be very tenacious, and explore as many options as possible. Getting on multiple waiting lists increases the chances of success.

It's important to know whether a housing seeker fits into one of the following "priority" categories. If an individual is at risk of immediate homelessness or facing a physical threat, his/her application may be fast-tracked. There is also special housing for veterans, people 62 or over, people with children, and people with disabilities (physical or mental/emotional),

Vouchers and Private Housing that is Subsidized

The Metro Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) administers the Section 8 voucher program (which pays a landlord the difference between the rent and what the voucher-holding tenant can afford). MBHP maintains the waiting lists for the vouchers and for other subsidized housing programs. People often wait years to get assistance. MBHP is huge and unwieldy, but they have an excellent website and resource center. They can also help with moving costs. The Consumer Resource Line is 617-425-6700; web address:

<http://mbhp.org/pages.asp?p=61&c=24>

The MetroList, which is run by the City of Boston, is another resource for affordable rental units: 617-635-3321

Public Housing

Public housing (also known as "the projects") is owned and managed by local housing authorities. Qualifying tenants pay 30% of their income for rent. Most public housing has a strong local preference, which means that people who already live in the community have a much better chance of getting a unit than "outsiders". For this reason, people should be referred to the housing authority where they currently live:

- Arlington Housing Authority: 781-646-3400
- Cambridge Housing Authority: 617-497-4040
- Watertown Housing Authority: 617-923-3950
- Waltham Housing Authority: 781-894-3357

You can find a list of other authorities at the State's website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/publications/howto.htm#LHAs>

Shelters

Shelters are for emergency situations (especially when one's personal safety is at risk), or placement during a transitional time. One can always go to the local emergency room or police station if a shelter bed is not available.

Shelters serve different populations and their vacancies change daily. A (relatively) quick way of identifying an opening is by calling United Way's First Call for Help: 800-231-4377.

Many family shelters are State-funded and require a referral from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). There are offices all over the State. The closest is in Somerville (Davis Square, easily accessible by public transit): 617- 629-1400. DTA's main number is 800-249-2007.

If a person is seeking shelter, (s)he probably has many other needs, and should contact DTA regardless.

Area Rental Housing for Elders and People with Disabilities

- Cascap (rental housing, supportive services—based in Cambridge): 617-492-5559
- Mt. Pleasant Apartments (Somerville): 617-623-5810
- Arsenal Apartments (Watertown): 617-924-5565
- Marshall Place (Watertown): Call Cascap for openings (617-492-5559)
- Statewide Elder Hotline: 800-882-2003 (800-AGE-INFO)
- Mass Access Program (for people with disabilities): 617-338-6665

See also the sections on resources for elders and people with disabilities.

Roommates and Market Rate Housing Listings

One can also find (relatively) inexpensive market-rate housing listings on newspaper ads and online, especially for shared housing (roommate) situations:

- Craigslist: <http://boston.craigslist.org>
- Boston Apartments: <http://www.bostonapartments.com>

Community Development Corporations (CDCs)

These nonprofit organizations often own/manage affordable rental housing or can assist with housing searches. Local CDCs include:

- Housing Corporation of Arlington: 781-316-3429
- Somerville Community Corporation: 617-776-5931
- Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (WATCH): 781-891-6689
- Watertown Community Housing: 617-923-3505

Many Cambridge-based agencies offer housing assistance, including Homestart: 617-234-5340.

Domestic Violence

Resources for battered women include:

REACH (Waltham): <http://reachma.org>; hotline: 800-899-4000

RESPOND (Somerville): respondinc.org; hotline: 617-623-5900

SafeLink (State-wide, multi-lingual agency): hotline: 877-785-2020

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

<http://www.bostonfairhousing.org/>

The Waltham Alliance To Create Housing (WATCH) can help resolve tenant-landlord disputes:
781-891-6689

517 Moody Street, Waltham MA 02453.

<http://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

Phone: 617- 876-5376

<http://www.communitydispute.org>

Greater Boston Legal Services

800-323-3205

Offices in Boston and Cambridge

<http://gbls.org/immigration/index.htm>

Watertown Community Housing

63 Mt. Auburn St.

Watertown, MA

617-923-3505

www.watertowncommunityhousing.org

Resources for Needy Homeowners: Fuel Assistance & Foreclosure Prevention

Fuel Assistance

New Watertown applicants apply at:
The Senior Center
31 Marshall St.,
Watertown.
(617) 972-6490,
New applications are taken after 11/1.

Ongoing clients:
Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI)
20 Academy Street, Suite 202
Arlington, MA 02476
(978) 459-6161
1-877-451-1082 - Toll Free
(781) 643-2358 – October - March

Foreclosure Prevention and Credit Counseling

The Boston Home Center is your one-stop source for homeownership information and can answer questions about refinancing, foreclosure prevention, and home repairs.
617-635-HOME (4663) to learn about all of your options.

CCS of Southern New England, Affiliated with Money Management International
8 Winter Street, Boston, MA
Tel: 866-889-9347 • www.creditcounseling.org

Watertown Community Housing
63 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA. 02131
617-923-3505
www.watertowncommunityhousing.org
Provides one-to-one confidential counseling and referrals

Resources for Housing: Homeownership

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. Watertown Community Housing offers classes on a regular basis, but taking any *certified* class qualifies buyers for special programs, regardless of where they buy. A schedule of classes in other communities is available at:

http://www.chapa.org/housing_workshops2005.htm

Assistance for first-time buyers fall into three general categories:

Municipal Programs

Most communities offer down payment assistance (either grants or loans) to first-time homebuyers. Eligibility requirements and amounts of assistance vary from town to town, as do restrictions on resale prices. For more details, applicants should contact the municipality (usually the Planning Office) where they want to buy.

A list of programs in our area can be found on the Watertown Community Housing website:

<http://watertowncommunityhousing.org/id16.html>

The Malden Redevelopment Authority maintains information about programs in communities North of Boston, including Arlington, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere, and Winthrop. Their phone number is 781-324-5720.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

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 Citizens Housing And Planning Association (CHAPA).

http://www.chapa.org/housing_lotteries.htm

Mortgage Products for First-time Buyers

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): <http://www.mhp.net>

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

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), Watertown
- St. Vincent de Paul Pantry: (617) 926-7121, at St. Patrick's Church, Watertown. 26 Chestnut St. Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 –11:45 A.M.
- Red Cross Metro West: (781) 642-7000, 867 Main St., Waltham (at Francis St.). John and Mary Collins Food Pantry: Thursday 1:00- 6:00 P.M.
- Salvation Army: (781) 894-0413, Food pantry, H.O.P.E. Kitchen (meals). 33 Myrtle St., Waltham (off Moody St.) Call for information
- 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. Watertown
- SERVE New England (888) 742-7363, low cost food packages for those willing to volunteer 2 hours a month. Watertown location is Beaverbrook Step, Inc. on Main Street. www.servenewengland.org
- 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.

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): (617) 972-5502 for information and times
- Free or Low Cost School Lunch & Breakfast: -contact student's school guidance counselor or principal for information and an application to the programs, - w.w.w.meals4kids.org

Households with Seniors:

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

Food Stamps: The rules concerning food stamp eligibility are complex and change frequently. For this reason, people should be encouraged to check their eligibility yearly. The program is administered through the Department of Transitional Assistance, unless a person is receiving Social Security. Certain Afghan and Iraqi non-citizens with special immigrant status and their family members may be eligible to receive food stamps for a period of up to six months (for Afghans) or eight months (for Iraqis).

Questions & Applications:

DTA (Department of Transitional Assistance) Satellite Office:

Smith Community Health Center

564 Main Street, Waltham, MA

Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm"

Online application (new applicants only): The online application is for new applicants only and cannot be used for re-certification. www.mass.gov/dta. Under "Key Resources" click on "Apply Online."

More information:

FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333

www.gettingfoodstamps.org – Project Bread's website. Also has downloadable food stamp application.

Medical / Healthcare Resources

Health Insurance & Medical Care

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

administered by the Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services

A program for MA. 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 - must file a MassHealth application (see info. above)

Medical hardships (any income), you must file a separate Medical Hardship application.
1-877-910-2100

Commonwealth Connector

An independent state agency that helps Massachusetts residents find health insurance coverage and avoid tax penalties. Runs Commonwealth Care a free healthcare plan for uninsured low-moderate income MA residents.

1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765)

www.mahealthconnector.org

Free medical clinic at

Immanuel Church

545 Moody St., Waltham

(Basement entrance on Cherry St.)

Every Monday night (except holidays)

6-8pm

General Resources

Health Care for All

Questions on health care resources in MA:

Helpline

1-800-272-4232

www.hcfa.org.

Health Law Advocates

Health related legal issues, including representation:

617-338-5241.

www.healthlawadvocates.org

Employment & Educational Resources

Professional Certification Programs

JVS Center for Careers and Lifelong Learning
29 Winter Street, Third Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: 617-542-1993
Web: www.jvs-boston.org
E-Mail: learning@jvs-boston.org

One-Stop Career Centers

Career Source
186 Alewife Brook Parkway
Cambridge (Fresh Pond)
Tel: 617-661-7867
<http://www.yourcareersource.com>

Employment and Training Resources
288 Walnut Street, Suite 130
Newtonville, MA 02460 (corner of 449 Newtonville Ave)
Tel: 617-928-0530
http://etrcc.com/car_svcs.html

Employment Services

ETR helps individuals to identify various resources for career and employment transitions.
288 Walnut Street, Suite 130 • Newtonville, MA 02460 (corner of 449 Newtonville Ave)
Tel: 617-928-0530
http://etrcc.com/car_svcs.html

The Work Place
Allston/Brighton Resource Center
367 Western Avenue
Brighton, MA 02135
Tel: (617) 562-5734
www.theworkplace.org

Clothing for the Workplace

A Suitable Image, INC.
A Suitable Image provides women with one suit with accessories for their interview. Clients must be referred from an agency caseworker/counselor when they are "interview ready".
100 Concord Street, Second Floor
Framingham, Massachusetts 01702
508-620-3993
www.suitableimage.org

Dress for Success

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that helps low-income women make tailored transitions into the workforce. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a second suit when she gets the job.

C/O The Family Justice Center

989 Commonwealth Ave.

Boston, MA. 02215

(617) 779-2177

www.dressforsuccess.org

GED General Information

The General Educational Development Tests (GED Tests) can give you the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma. This credential is recognized as a key to employment opportunities, advancement, further education, and financial rewards.

What are the GED Tests?

The GED Tests are five tests in the areas of Language Arts - Writing Skills, Language Arts - Reading, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. The questions in each of these tests require you to use general knowledge and thinking skills. Few questions ask about facts, details, or definitions.

Am I eligible to take the GED Tests?

You are eligible to take the tests if you are not enrolled in, and have not graduated from, high school, and you need to meet the requirements set by your state, territory, or province, with regard to age, the length of time since you left school, and residency.

What are the GED Tests like?

With the exception of Language Arts - Writing Skills, which requires you to write an essay, and the Mathematics Test, which has open-ended questions that require that some of the answers be entered on to an Alternative Grid or a Coordinate Plane, all of the questions on the GED Test are multiple choice with five possible answers given. The questions range in difficulty from easy to hard, and cover a wide range of subjects.

The contents of the tests are as follows:

- Language Arts -Writing Arts
Part I (50 questions, 75 minutes)
Part II (essay, 45 minutes) (Total for questions & essay 2 hours)
- Language Arts, Reading (40 questions, 65 minutes)
- Social Studies (50 questions, 70 minutes)
- Science (50 Questions, 80 minutes)
- Mathematics (50 questions, 90 minutes)

How should I prepare for the tests?

Many adult education programs sponsored by local school districts, colleges, and even community organizations, provide the instruction you may need for the tests. 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 your skills in a few areas. In fact, about twenty percent of all GED test-takers do not formally study for the tests.

However, should you decide that you want to attend a program with GED test instruction, your next step is to contact the Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline at 1-800-447-8844 to receive information about adult education and GED preparation programs near you. You may also check the [Adult and Community Learning Services](#) (ACLS) website at the Department of Education.

There is also a television series carried by cable television and most public television stations throughout the country. This television series may provide you with the preparation that you need. Libraries and bookstores also carry GED study materials.

ABCs of the GED

- The GED tests are tough. The GED is not a remedial study program.
- Only six out of ten graduating high school seniors would earn passing scores if they took the GED Tests.
- The GED Tests cover what graduating high school seniors are supposed to know about language arts - reading, language arts - writing, social studies, science, and mathematics. They also measure reading comprehension, analytical ability, writing ability, and other important skills.
- The GED Tests last a total of seven and one quarter hours.
- Most people prepare for the GED Tests - with review classes, books, or practice tests. Many already have the knowledge and skills they need. Passing the GED Tests lets them prove it.
- People who pass the GED Tests have stronger reading skills on average than graduating high school seniors.
- About one out of every seven people who receive high school diplomas, each year earns that diploma by passing the GED Tests.
- About two of three persons taking the GED Tests plan to enter a two-year college, four-year college, or trade, technical, or business school during the next year. Another one in eight GED test-takers plan to take on-the-job training during the next year.
- About two-thirds of the people taking the GED Tests finished the tenth grade before leaving high school. About one-third finished the eleventh grade.
- Only one in twenty GED test-takers say academic problems led them to leave school.
- More than half of those who take and pass the GED Tests are twenty-four or younger. Nearly one-third are under twenty.
- More than ninety-five percent of employers nationwide employ GED graduates on the same basis as high school graduates in terms of hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement.
- Since 1942, more than twelve million adults have earned GED Diplomas.

From <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ged/geninfo.html>

ESOL, Adult Basic Education, and GED Resources

Watertown
Project Literacy
Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main St.
Watertown, MA. 02472
617-924-8797
sviskin@watertown-ma.gov

In addition to ESOL evening classes there are classes on Citizenship, American Culture and Language through Popular Music, Computers and Health.

Somerville
SCALE Adult Learning Center
167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA
617-625-6600 ext 6936
www.scalesomerville.org
ESOL & ABE & GED classes & testing

Newton
Division of Continuing Education
360 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, MA
617-559-6993 *GED testing*

Waltham
Power Program
Waltham Public Schools
781-893-0315
Daytime: 20 Exchange Street, Waltham, MA
Monday & Wednesday evenings: South Middle School, 510 Moody Street
ESOL & ABE & GED classes

Resources for Developing Computer Skills

- The Watertown Free Public Library offers computer classes on Saturday mornings, 10 am – 12 noon. Stop by the 2nd floor meeting room to learn how to use a computer. Courses are offered free for 6-10 weeks. Contact Project Literacy at 617-924-8797 or sviskin@watertown-ma.gov or the Reference Department at 617-972-6436 for more information. These classes are offered free from a grant from First Literacy until June 2009.
- Charles River Public Computer Center
The Charles River Public Internet Center has 18 computers available for a suggested donation of \$1.00 on an as available basis. 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 02454
781-891-9559
www.crpic.org
- Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center
31 Marshall Street, Watertown
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 Adult and Community Education
Watertown High School
50 Columbia Street, Watertown
rfoglia@watertown.k12.ma.us (email for quickest response)
617-926-7764
Fall and Spring Courses. Catalogs on line at
<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/dept/wce/index.html>

Resources for Immigrants

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

TERI College Access
Boston Public Library, Copley Square
www.tericollegeaccess.org
1-877-332-4348

Free Family Literacy Programs

Watertown Even Start Family Literacy Program

Hosmer School, 1 Concord Road
Watertown, MA 02472
617-926-7719

Adults and their children under age 7
M-Th 3-5:15 pm

Parent Child Home Program for Watertown families

A home-visiting "learning through play" experience for parents and their preschool children

460 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
617-926-6699

Adult Programs

Power Program

Waltham Public Schools

Daytime: 20 Exchange Street, Waltham, MA
781-893-0315

Mon. & Wed. evenings: South Middle School,
510 Moody Street (ESOL & ABE & GED classes)

Community Learning Center
19 Brookline Street, Cambridge, MA
617-349-6363
www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~DHSP/clc/

Concilio Hispano
105 Windsor Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-661-9406

www.conciliohispano.org

(ESOL, Spanish GED, Spanish Literacy)

SCALE

167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA
617-625-1335 ext. 6938
www.scalesomerville.org
(ESOL & ABE & GED classes)

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

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

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

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, Allston Branch
300 N. Harvard St., Allston
617-787-6313
(Conversation Groups)

English at Large
400 High Street
Medford, MA 02155
781-395-2374
www.englishatlarge.com
(ESOL tutoring & conversation groups)

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
150 Court Square, Suite 540, Boston, MA
617-367-1313

Parent Child Home Program for Watertown Families
The Learning Center
36 Philip Darch Rd.
Watertown, MA. 02472
617-926-6699
(*home-based learning through play*)

Fee-for-service Programs

Bunker Hill Community College
Room B109, Charlestown Campus
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 Ave., Newtonville, MA.
617-552-7461
(ESOL classes)

Low-Cost and Free Health Care Programs for Immigrants in Massachusetts

Resources at Health Care for All:
Health Care for All's Helpline at 1-800-272-4232. If you have a legal question about health care, call Health Law Advocates at (617) 338-5241.
<http://www.hcfama.org>

Free medical clinic at
Immanuel Church
545 Moody St., Waltham
(Basement entrance on Cherry St.)
Every Monday night (except holidays)
6-8pm

Legal Help

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)
800-323-3205
Offices in Boston and Cambridge
<http://gbls.org/immigration/index.htm>

International Institute
One Milk Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617)695-9990
<http://www.iiboston.org>

Harvard Legal Aid
(617) 495-4408
Resource directory:
http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/hlab/need_additional.php

Other resources

World in Watertown has just published a resource map of Watertown with information written in English, Chinese, Western Armenian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian. It will soon be available free of charge at many sites around the community, including the Watertown library.

Resources for Families

Watertown Family Network

The Watertown Family Network provides a variety of services to families with children aged birth through 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.

460 Main Street

617-926-1661

Email: mailbox@watertownfamilynetwork.org

www.watertown.k12.ma.us/wfn

Parent Child Home Program

This program is a home-visiting “learning through play” experience for parents and their pre-school children. This program helps develop a child’s capacity for communication, prepares a foundation for success in school, helps mother and fathers become confident parents, and strengthens the parent-child relationship through positive interactions. Children between the ages of 1 ½ and 4 from income eligible families in Watertown are welcome to enroll.

460 Main St.

617-926- 6699

Email: pchwatertown@rcn.com

www.parent-child.org

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. PHP meets weekly at the Watertown Family Network.

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 any family. The Center’s programs include Visiting Moms--a home visit program for parents, support groups such as the New Mothers Group that meets weekly at the Watertown Family Network, and 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 completely voluntary. Young mothers are provided with support, information on child development, and help finding community resources. Women under the age of 20 who are pregnant with their first child are eligible to enroll.

Jewish Family & Children's Service
617-558-1278

Wayside Youth and Family Support Network – Multi-Service Center

Wayside provides a full range of prevention, intervention and counseling services primarily for children, adolescents and families. Wayside Multi-Service Center (Watertown office): 617-926-3600. Counseling Central Intake: 1-800-492-9743. www.waysideyouth.org

Childcare & Education Programs

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 their 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. The website is very informative and easy to navigate.

617-988-6600
www.eec.state.ma.us

Community Partnerships for Children (CPC)

This grant supports the preschool age child and many of the preschool programs in the town. CPC helps ensure access to high quality preschool education in the town. It also helps to meet the needs of preschool education by offering scholarships to Watertown working families. Call: 617-926-7762

Warm Lines

This non-profit organization based in Newton provides parents with a forum to meet, locate resources, learn more about parenting, or find programs for children. Professionals who work with children and families also rely upon WarmLines for educational workshops on a wide variety of topics. There is a membership fee for some of their programs.

617-244-INFO
www.warmlines.org

Child Care Resource Center (CCRC)

CCRC is a private, non-profit, child care resource and referral agency dedicated to making quality child care accessible to every family that needs it. CCRC serves parents and caregivers with a wide variety of child care referral, training, and support services.. Income eligible parents interested in a voucher for child care should contact the CCRC.

Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge

617-547- 9861

www.ccrinc.org

Early Intervention Programs

Early intervention programs provide services to children (birth – 3 years) who have a diagnosis, developmental delay, or who may be at risk for developmental delays based on their 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 Department of Public Health.

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.

Thom/Charles River Early Intervention Program

781-647-6564

www.thomchild.org

Wayside Beaverbrook Early Intervention Program

781-891-0556 x 28

www.waysideyouth.org

Once the child has reached three years of age, he/she may be eligible for services through the Watertown Public Schools. When the child is 2 ½ years old discussions occur with the family to review options available when the child turns 3 to assist with transitioning from early intervention.

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.

Guide to Watertown's Accessible Dining Establishments

<http://www.ci.watertown.ma.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=885>

Resources for Elders

Marshall Home Fund

Providing financial assistance for programs serving the elderly in Watertown, and to individuals age 55 and over who are experiencing financial difficulties.

For information and to apply, contact:

The Marshall Home Fund,
120 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown 02472,
617 972 6490,
or Springwell at 617 926 4100.

Springwell

Springwell is committed to providing a broad range of services that enhance the options available to seniors and persons with disabilities. Springwell is a one-stop shopping center that provides everything from information, care advice, and meals to in-home care 7 days a week. Free, subsidized and fee-based services available.

125 Walnut Street
Watertown, MA. 02472
(617) 926-4100
info@springwell.com
www.springwell.com

Comprehensive resource guide on elder services from Watertown
Council on Aging:

<http://www.ci.watertown.ma.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=904>

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.,

Watertown, MA 02472

617 924 6143

www.fpwatertown.org

The Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation provides grants and supplies to families and child-serving organizations.

Contact: www.millertracychildrensfoundation.com

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

Contact: Police Chief Ed Deveau, 617-972-6533

The Council on Aging manages a small emergency fund as well.

Contact: Caryl Fox, 617-972-6490