

What:

FREE trainings on housing concerns for persons with disabilities

Topics Included:

- Accessing Housing
- Tenants' Rights, Discrimination, and Reasonable Accommodations & Modifications
- Basic Benefits and Income Maximization
- Utility Issues and Consumer Protections
- Resources for Special Populations
- Understanding Hoarders
- Eviction Prevention and Tenancy Preservation
- Increasing Self- Sufficiency

Who:

Any service provider working with persons with disabilities – this series is highly recommended for new staff members as well as anyone who feels unfamiliar with one or all of these topics

When:

Ongoing series held on Monday mornings from Sept. 22– Nov. 17

Where:

Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, 125 Lincoln Street, 5th Floor (near South Station)

How:

Register for individual trainings or the entire series

Registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to space considerations, the number of participants at each training will be limited. Once a training has reached maximum capacity, a waiting list will be started. Contact Blair at AIDS Housing Corporation for more information: bcushing@ahc.org



Training Descriptions

Accessing Housing

Monday, September 22 *8:30am - 12:30pm*

Housing advocacy funds are scarce, despite the need for housing among people living with disabilities. This training will provide an overview of affordable housing resources including: funding structures that provide for affordable housing in MA, the types of housing programs as well as the eligibility requirements for each, and how to access shelter when all other options are exhausted.

Tenants' Rights & Discrimination + Strategy Session on Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Monday, September 29 *8:30am – 12:30pm*

The training will describe the rights that a person with a disability has under both the federal and state civil right laws. A large portion of this workshop will focus on what are considered to be discriminatory tactics when an individual is applying for or already residing in housing. We will also discuss what to do when someone has been discriminated against. The strategy session on Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications will include how to make a request, how Accommodations and Modifications can be used in housing search, the application process, and assisting someone to retain housing. Resources that individuals can utilize concerning a Reasonable Modification will also be discussed.

Income Maximization and Accessing Basic Benefits

Monday, October 6 *8:30am – 12:30am*

Providers starting out in the human services field are often overwhelmed about where to go and who to contact regarding basic benefits and services for their clients. This training offers participants, especially new staff, an overview of how to access basic benefits as well as what the eligibility requirements are for programs such as: TAFDC, EAEDC, Food Stamps, WIC, SSI, SSDI, Mass Health & Commonwealth Care, childcare vouchers and more.

Utility Issues: Resources, Consumer Rights, and Protections

Monday, October 20 *9:00am – 11:00am*

One of the most common reasons low-income households struggle to meet their housing expenses is the high cost of utilities. This training will inform participants about resources available to help reduce the cost of tenants' utility bills and also provide an overview on consumer rights concerning utilities. This will include discussion about the various protections against utility shut-off for consumer in Massachusetts.

Services for Special Populations

Monday, October 27 *8:30am – 12:30pm*

This training will describe resources that are available for specific populations including: survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, elder care, substance abuse, mental health and other disability groups, as well as where to locate such services. The focus will be on first points-of-contact for getting your clients connected to needed supports. An overview of laws and regulations that may affect any one of these specific groups will also be provided.

Eviction Prevention & Tenancy Preservation

Monday, November 3 ***9:00am – 12:00pm***

The best way to prevent homelessness is to keep people housed. This training will provide participants with tools to assist clients in preserving their current tenancy, including how to prevent tenants from being evicted. This workshop will provide an overview of the eviction process from beginning to end and tell you what to expect if a client ends up going to housing court. We will also provide participants with resources for mediation and dealing with common landlord-tenant issues.

Understanding Hoarding

Monday, November 10 ***9:00am – 11:00am***

This training will provide participants with a greater understanding of hoarding behavior. This will include bettering the understanding of what the underlying disability issue may be, suggested protocols for dealing with tenants who hoard, and what resources are available to obtain further assistance for your clients.

Increasing Self-Sufficiency

Monday, November 17 ***9:00am – 11:00am***

Housing and service programs are increasingly being evaluated based on their ability to increase clients' self-sufficiency levels and help them transition to greater independence. Information on special savings programs for low-income individuals and families, opportunities to return to work or school, and vocational rehabilitation resources will be provided.

Please email or fax your registration to AIDS Housing Corporation

Email: bcushing@ahc.org

Fax: 617-927-0852

****A confirmation message will be sent upon receipt of your registration.****

Name (first and last): _____

Organization: _____

Title/Position: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

How long have you been working with persons with disabilities? _____ years _____ months

Which trainings are you registering for? (Check all that apply)

_____ I would like to attend all of the trainings. Please register me for the full series.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
_____ 9/22/2008	Accessing Housing	8:30-12:30
_____ 9/29/2008	Tenant's Rights & Discrimination + Strategy Session on RA/RM	8:30-12:30
_____ 10/6/2008	Income Maximization and Accessing Basic Benefits	8:30-12:30
_____ 10/20/2008	Utility Issues: Resources, Consumer Rights, and Protections	9:00-11:00
_____ 10/27/2008	Services for Special Populations	8:30-12:30
_____ 11/3/2008	Eviction Prevention & Tenancy Preservation	9:00-12:00
_____ 11/10/2008	Understanding Hoarding	9:00-11:00
_____ 11/17/2008	Increasing Self-Sufficiency	9:00-11:00

**** Please note the start times for each. Based on the amount of content that will be presented at each session, the length of trainings will vary.****