

Boston ElderINFO

Home Modification & Assistive Technology Financial Resources – Suffolk County

Includes information and resources for:

Home Modifications & Assistive Technology

- Assistive Technology & Equipment
- Auto and Home Modifications
- Home Improvement
- Home Repairs

***Boston ElderINFO** makes no statements about the quality of the service provided by the listings in this booklet and cannot be held responsible for the quality of service they provide.*

***Boston ElderINFO**, a program of Boston Senior Home Care, Central Boston Elder Services and Ethos, is funded in whole or in part by contracts with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.*

***For Information and Referrals** in Boston call Boston ElderINFO at 617-292-6211 TTY 617-451-6404
For Information and Referrals outside of Boston call 1-800-AGE-INFO (800-243-4636)
TTY 800-872-0166*

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Home Modifications & Assistive Technology

Home modification and Assistive Technology agencies provide financial assistance for individuals who need help with auto and home modifications, home improvement, home repairs, and purchasing assistive technology.

Assistive Technology Center at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center	
Address	300 1 st Avenue
	Charlestown, MA 02129
Phone	617-952-6204 or 617-573-2927 Fax: 617-952-5940
Web/Email	http://www.spauldingrehab.org/research/assistive-technology-center.aspx
Languages:	English and Spanish. Call for interpreter services
Services:	Assistive Technology Center offers a low fixed bank loan which enables qualified individuals to finance equipment, devices and home modifications to increase their independence. Call for more information on the application process.

City of Boston Free Smoke Alarm Program	
Address	Fire Department Headquarters
	Boston, MA 02201
Phone	Main: 617-828-8686 Elder Liaison: 617-635-2359 (Ernie Dee)
Web/Email	n/a
Languages:	English
Services:	The City of Boston offers free smoke alarms to at-risk individual and families (elders, families with children, refugees and immigrants) They will install, provide fire safety education in the home and conduct follow-up visits.

DEAF, Inc. (Development Evaluation Adjustment Facilities)	
Address	215 Brighton Avenue
	Allston, MA 02134
Phone	617-254-4041 TTY/Voice
Web/Email	www.deafinonline.org
Languages:	English
Services:	Advocacy, home safety, assistive technologies, housing, financial assistance and assessment of insurance coverage and assess transportation needs for Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, or Late-Deafened person aged 60 or older, and living in the City of Boston. DEAF, Inc.'s Senior Independent Living Services can provide information and advocacy to help eligible persons remain safe and independent in their own home. They have regional offices in Boston, Taunton and New Bedford.

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation	
Address	594 Columbia Road
	Dorchester, MA 02125
Phone	617-825-4200 x 213 Fax: 617-825-3522 Contact: Karla Anderson
Web/Email	www.dbedc.org
Languages:	English and Spanish
Services:	The Dorchester Bay EDC provides low interest rehabilitation loans for home repairs, redesign, de-leading and improvements.

Easter Seals Massachusetts	
Address	89 South Street
	Boston, MA 02111
Phone	617-226-2634
Web/Email	www.eastersealsma.org
Languages:	Call for information
Services:	Easter Seals offers an assistive technology temporary loan program. Hundreds of devices are available in the areas of communication, education, hearing and vision impairment, and daily living. Requests for equipment loans can come from individuals, a family member, friend, advocate or someone who is helping you with your assistive technology needs, such as a therapist, teacher or rehab center.

Ensuring Stability through Action in our Community (ESAC)	
Address	214 Harvard Street, Lower Level
	Dorchester, MA 02124
Phone	Main: 617-524-2555 Program Contact: Tom Lynch, Program Manager
Web/Email	www.esacboston.org
Languages:	English and Spanish
Services:	Home repair and home rehabilitation projects to seniors 62+ or for a person with a disability of any age. Homeowners must be low or moderate income and live in the following Boston communities: Allston, Brighton, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale or West Roxbury.

GetATstuff (Assistive Technology Exchange in New England)	
Address	Not listed
Phone	In State: 1-877-508-3974 Voice: 617-204-3851, TTY 617-204-3815
Web/Email	www.getatstuff.org
Languages: English, Spanish and other languages. Call for more information	
Services: GetATStuff is MassMATCH's free assistive device exchange program/ The Equipment Exchange is similar to a "want ad" where pre-owned assistive technology is listed in order to put people looking for assistive technology in contact with sellers and donators. The Equipment Exchange is an opportunity to re-sell, donate or sell used assistive technology.	

Home Modifications Loan Program (HMLP)	
Address	125 Lincoln Street Boston, MA 02111
Phone	617-859-0400 Fax: 617-426-4256 Contact Name: Jennifer Shaw 617-425-6637
Web/Email	www.mbhp.org or Jennifer.shaw@mbhp.org
Operates in collaboration with Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership	
Languages: English, Spanish	
Services: The state-funded Home Modification Loan Program provides low- and no-interest loans to make modifications to the homes of elders, adults with disabilities, and families with children with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. These modifications allow people to remain in their homes and live independently in their communities. Any homeowner, who has a disability, has a household member who has a disability, or rents to an individual with a disability may apply for a loan. Income guidelines are based on the total household gross income of the homeowner. Based on the income guidelines, \$1,000 - \$30,000 may be borrowed in either a deferred payment loan (DPL) or an amortized loan.	

Home Works HELP Program – City of Boston	
Address	The Boston Home Center
	26 Court Street, Boston, MA
Phone	Phone: 617.635.HOME (4663) or 617-635-0600
Web/Email	www.homecenter.com
Languages: English. Call for more information	
<p>Services: Through the HomeWorks Home Equity Loan Program (HELP), you may be eligible to receive an interest-free loan for a variety of approved home repair projects. The Boston Home Center will partner with you through the entire home repair process, monitoring work quality, and ensuring a post renovation inspection. Receive an interest-free loan of up to \$10,000 for a single-family home; up to \$15,000 for a two-family home; and up to \$20,000 for a three-family home for approved interior and exterior repairs. Must own and occupy a 1-4 family home or condo in Boston. Must have a household income at or below 120% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Area Median Income (AMI) limits. Some examples of interior repairs with standard finishes and grades are: perform health and safety repairs (Note: interior and exterior health and safety repairs must be addressed before other home repair projects), repair or replace a heating system, repair or upgrade an inadequate electrical system, replace a kitchen or bathroom and repair flooring. Other examples of exterior repairs include painting, repair or replace a porch, repair or replace a roof, restore a foundation, repair or replace clapboards, vinyl siding or windows.</p>	

Kit Clark Senior Home Improvement Program	
Address	1500 Dorchester Avenue
	Dorchester, MA 02122
Phone	617-825-5000 Fax: 617-288-5991
Web/Email	www.baycove.org or email Leo Moss at lmoss@baycove.org
Languages: English, Spanish and other languages. Call for more information	
<p>Services: The Senior Home Improvement Program (SHIP) provides eligible homeowners with home rehabilitation and repair services including: Interest-free loans, low or no cost home repairs, emergency assistance, security improvement, energy conservation and carpentry services including doors, windows, and stairs repaired or replaced. Specializing in handicap accessibility, installing ramps, bathroom accessories, handrails and widening doorways. Serves consumers living in Dorchester, South Boston, and Roxbury.</p>	

Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program	
Address	1380 Bay Street, Building B
	Taunton, MA 02780
Phone	V/TTY: 800-300-5658
Web/Email	www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/massedp/
Languages: English, Spanish and other languages. Call for more information	
Services: The Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program (MassEDP) is a service that provides residents with a permanent disability access to the telephone network in their homes. By offering specialized telephones for free or at a reduced cost, depending on income, this program fosters independence, empowerment, and freedom of choice.	

MassMATCH	
Address	600 Washington Street
	Boston, MA 02111
Phone	Helpline: 877-508-3974 TDD: 617-204-3815
Web/Email	www.massmatch.org
Languages: English, Spanish and other languages. Call for more information	
Services: MassMATCH assists individuals with disabilities, family members, and disability-related providers, agencies and organizations across the state with getting assistive technology through the following programs: device demonstration program, device short term loan program, device reutilization program and state financing activities. MassMATCH's website provides a wealth of information on assistive technology services for people of all ages.	

MassHousing	
Address	One Beacon Street
	Boston, MA 02108
Phone	617-854-1000 Consumer Hotline: 1-800-882-1154
Web/Email	www.masshousing.com
Languages: Cantonese, English, Haitian Creole, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese. Other languages may be available. Call for more information	
Services: MassHousing developed the Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) to provide eligible owners of 1 to 4 unit owner occupied properties with low interest rate financing to make needed repairs to their homes. Use an affordable Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) loan to make general, non-luxury improvements to your property. There are income limits and other restrictions including: the home must have be principal residence for at least 1 year, consumer must have good credit and stable income, loans may be used for 1 to 4 family properties and condominiums only	

and consumer will not be reimbursed for work started before the loan closing. Also offers a Septic Repair Program.

Mass Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)	
Address	600 Washington Street (Administrative Offices)
	Boston, MA 02111
Phone	Home Care: 617-204-3853 General Information: 617-204-3600 TDD: 617-204-3868 Fax: 617-727-1354 Employer Services: 1-800-245-6543
Web/Email	http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mrc
Languages:	English, Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole and Cambodian
Services:	The Massachusetts Rehabilitation is the sole state agency charged with the administration of the federal/state Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Programs, serving all individuals with disabilities. MRC provides assistance and/or referrals for the following types of services: Abuse and Neglect Intervention, Advocacy, Assistive Technology, Benefit Programs, Brain Injury, Employer Services, Housing, Independent Living, Job Placement and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Education and Training, Disability Determination Services and Home and Community Based Waivers. In collaboration with the Community Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAC) they administer the Home Modifications Loan Program for elders and individuals with Disabilities.

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.	
Address	One Brigham Circle
	Boston, MA 02120
Phone	617-566-6565
Web/Email	www.missionhillnhs.org
Languages:	English, Spanish
Services:	Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) is a community-based nonprofit housing and economic development organization committed to the revitalization and stabilization of the Mission Hill neighborhood. They own and rent mixed income apartments and also provide below market home improvement loans for Mission Hill residents. It is called the Revolving Loan Fund Program.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Greater New England Chapter	
Address	101A First Avenue, Suite 6
	Waltham, MA 02451
Phone	800-344-4867
Web/Email	www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/mam/index.aspx
Languages: English, Spanish and other languages available. Call for more information	
Services: The National Multiple Sclerosis Society provides direct support and resources to help alleviate some of the financial burden people with MS may experience. They provide support in the following categories: air conditioners; transportation to medical appointments, emergency needs, short-term counseling, home and auto modifications, medical equipment and home and respite care. They also help to identify other potential funding sources. Eligibility: Any person diagnosed with MS, living in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire or Vermont, may apply for financial assistance. A person is eligible to receive financial assistance from the Greater New England Chapter once per year. All applications must be approved before the purchase of goods and/or services.	

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)	
Address	143 Border Street
	East Boston, MA 02128
Phone	617-567-5882
Web/Email	www.noahcdc.org
Languages: English, Mandarin and Spanish. Call for more information	
Services: NOAH is committed to helping low- and moderate-income senior and disabled homeowners remain comfortably in their homes by providing affordable home repair services, including minor repairs, emergency repairs, and senior home rehabilitation. To qualify seniors must be 62+, live in Charlestown, East Boston, the North End or West End of Boston; occupy or own a 1-4 family property; and have incomes below certain limits.	

United South End Settlements – Senior Home Repair Program	
Address	566 Columbus Avenue, Harriet Tubman House East Boston, MA 02128
Phone	617-375-8163
Web/Email	www.noahcdc.org
Languages:	English, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Italian and Spanish. Call for more information
Services:	Home repair program for people with disabilities of any age or seniors 62+. Must live and own in Beacon Hill, South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, Downtown, Fenway or Dorchester (02121) areas. Must also be low income. Services include but are not limited to: grab bar and handrail installation, repair interior stairs, installation of doorbells for the hearing impaired, broken window repair, replace door locks, rebuild porches, replace exterior windows, update electrical panels/defective wiring and replace nonfunctioning furnaces/boilers.