



Contact:

Maureen Fitzgerald
Regional Housing Network
1.617.367.9798
mfitzgerald@regionalhousing.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2014

Nonprofit proposes ideas for addressing the underlying causes of homelessness in Massachusetts

White paper entitled, "Moving from Rhetoric to Results: Recommendations to Reduce Family Homelessness in Massachusetts"

Boston – A group of housing nonprofits has offered a roadmap out of the current homelessness crisis plaguing Massachusetts. In a new white paper released today, Feb. 13, the ten members of the Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts submit their recommendations to address the underlying causes to homelessness in the Commonwealth. Entitled "*Moving from Rhetoric to Results: Recommendations to Reduce Family Homelessness in Massachusetts*," the paper is a collaborative effort to analyze the current problem and offer solutions for an effective reduction in family homelessness.

Despite laudable efforts by the state to alleviate the problem, the resources currently set aside for homelessness and homelessness prevention programs are not enough to stem the tide.

"With homelessness in Massachusetts at its highest point in the thirty-year history since the shelter system was created, it's clear that action must be taken," said Maureen Fitzgerald, executive director of the Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts. "More Americans live in poverty today than at any time in decades. We're seeing numbers like those in the 1960's, before the war on poverty. Something has to be done to turn those numbers around."

The authors of the paper put forth 18 recommendations, among them raising the minimum wage to \$11 an hour, supporting creation of new affordable housing, and increasing affordable access to public transportation.

Member Agencies:

Berkshire Housing Development Corporation . Community Teamwork, Inc. . Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority . HAPHousing . Housing Assistance Corporation
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc. . RCAP Solutions, Inc. . South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. . South Shore Housing Development Corporation

www.regionalhousing.net . 18 Tremont St. Suite 401 . Boston, MA 02108 . Tel: 617-367-0646 . Fax: 617-367-9404

One theme throughout the paper was the need to coordinate programs and services to help families and individuals meet all their needs, including education, training and employment support, health care services, child care, and transportation. "If we want to make a generational change and see families increase their economic stability," the paper states, "they must have access to the tools they need to support those efforts."

The paper will be circulated throughout the state at regional legislative events, beginning this Friday, Feb. 14, in Springfield.

About Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts

The Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts is a nonprofit organization whose members deliver progressive, affordable housing solutions and education to families and individuals in every community throughout the state. The ten members of the Regional Housing Network are: Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority; Community Teamwork, Inc.; Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority; HAP Housing; Housing Assistance Corporation; Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc.; RCAP Solutions, Inc.; South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.; and South Shore Housing Development Corporation. Learn more at <http://www.regionalhousing.net>.

Member Agencies:

*Berkshire Housing Development Corporation . Community Teamwork, Inc. . Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority . HAP, Inc. . Housing Assistance Corporation .
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc. . RCAP Solutions, Inc. . South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. . South Shore Housing Development Corporation*

www.regionalhousing.net . 18 Tremont St., Suite 401 . Boston, MA 02108 . Tel: 617-367-9798 . Fax: 617-367-9404