

Watertown 2020 Community Resource Directory

*An effort of the Watertown Service Provider Network,
coordinated by Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD).*

*This Directory is updated by a working group
of Watertown organizations and is available online at MWCD
and at other community organizations.*

Last update February 4, 2020.

Contributing Watertown Organizations

Church of the Good Shepherd
Coordinated Family & Community Engagement
Metro West Collaborative Development
ParentChild+
Project Literacy, Watertown Free Public Library
Springwell
The Family Center
Watertown Community Foundation
Watertown Council on Aging/Senior Center
Watertown Housing Authority
Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist
Wayside Multi-Service Center

Send updates and revisions to Kathy Kopp of ParentChild+ , at
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Notes: All Watertown addresses are listed without the town specified (Watertown, MA 02472); addresses outside Watertown have the city listed.

Resources at a Glance

TOWN LIBRARY

Library – Main Branch	617-972-6431
Library – Children’s Services Department	617-972-6435
Project Literacy.....	617-924-8797

EDUCATION

Central Office (Office of the School Superintendent)	617-926-7700
Watertown High School	617-926-7760
Watertown Middle School.....	617-926-7783
Cunniff School	617-926-7726
Lowell School	617-926-7700
Hosmer School	617-926-7740
K-12 : Before and After School Programs / Summer Programs.....	617 926-7764
Watertown Community Education.....	617-926-7764
Early Steps Integrated Pre-school Program.....	617-926-7765
The Family Network.....	617-926-1661
ParentChild+.....	617-926-6699

TOWN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center	617-972-6490
Watertown Food Pantry	617-972-6490
Watertown Health Department	617-972-6446
Watertown Public Works.....	617-972-6420
Watertown Recreation Department.....	617-972-6494
Watertown Recycling Center.....	617-972-6420

NEED HELP?

Al-anon.....	508-366-0556
Alcoholics Anonymous-Boston	617-426-9444
Child At Risk Hotline - State	800-792-5200
Child Find of America, Inc.	800-426-5678
Domestic Violence - Hotline (REACH).....	800-899-4000
Fuel Assistance Programs / Heat Line.....	800 632-8175
Massachusetts Dept. of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Hotline.....	800-249-2007
Massachusetts Dept. of Transitional Assistance, Chelsea office.....	617-551-1700
MassHealth Customer Service.....	800-841-2900
National Missing and Exploited Children.....	800-843-5678
Runaway National Hotline - ages 12 -21	800-621-4000
Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program.....	781 894-6564
Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist.....	617-744-9585
Wayside Multi-Service Center.....	617-926-3600
Emergency psychiatric help, from Advocates Mobile Crisis Team	800-540-5806
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at Watertown.....	857-523-2797

ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDES

See “The Online Guide” of the state's Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) at www.mass.gov/dta

www.mass211.org

Information and referral line available in 140+ languages that connects callers with social service programs in their local community.. Dial 211 or access website.

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialists (SSRS)

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialists (SSRS)

The SSRS is available to assist Watertown residents, under age 60, to connect to social services including food, fuel, housing and counseling resources.

This position is staffed by Wayside Multi-Service Center.

The SSRS can:

- Accept and help with filling out fuel assistance applications and help complete applications for other social services assistance (SNAP, housing, etc.);
- Refer residents to any needed social services including counseling;
- Meet with residents in the community, if need be;
- Access translators for appointments when needed.

Jenna Willis

jenna_willis@waysideyouth.org

617-744-9585

Services by appointment only; the SSRS will return phone calls within 48 hours.

Rental Housing, Shelters, Eviction and Domestic Abuse

Most people find places to live through the PRIVATE MARKET. These are apartments and homes rented and sold through private owners, without government involvement. Some of this housing may be “affordable” to lower income people. But sometimes prices are too high for lower income people, who may need government-assisted housing. These units are often only open to legal US residents.

Types of government-assisted housing

- 1) “Public” Housing (Housing Authorities)
- 2) Rental “Vouchers” - Section 8
- 3) Other Affordable Housing (“Subsidized” Housing)

1. “Public” Housing: Any housing managed by local Housing Authorities.

Public housing is built, owned and operated by a state government agency called a Housing Authority. Most towns have them.

“Public” Housing Basics:

- You pay 30% of your monthly income for rent; utilities may be included.
- Apply online via the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Public-Housing (**CHAMP**). You can apply to any housing authority in the state. Online application at: <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us>. Wait times can be 1 to 15 years, and are affected by any priority status.
- Towns may have local preference, so it is usually best to apply where you live. Some situations may have “priority” status, e.g, veterans, victims of domestic violence, victims of a fire, homelessness, etc.

Quality of units, quantities, and communities vary considerably, as do wait times.

Public Housing Resources Include:

- Watertown Housing Authority: 617-923-3950
- Belmont Housing Authority: 617-484-2160
- Newton Housing Authority: 617-552-5501
- Brookline Housing Authority: 617-277-2022
- Waltham Housing Authority: 781-894-3357

For more Authorities visit: Mass. Dept. of Housing at www.mass.gov/dhcd.

2. Rental “Vouchers” such as Section 8

Rental vouchers are a government guarantee to a landlord that the rent will be paid. Usually, a Housing Authority signs a contract between the housing authority, the tenant and the private landlord establishing how much the tenant will pay and then how much the housing authority will pay directly to the landlord. You apply for Section 8 at Housing Authorities and there is a centralized waitlist online.

- You may use a rental voucher for any apartment as long as it passes a basic housing quality inspection **and** as long as the rent is within the Housing Authority’s PAYMENT STANDARD
- You pay 30% of your monthly income for rent, the government pays the difference
- VERY long wait list: 8 to 15 years

Locate Rental Vouchers at

1. www.massnhro.org/S8_Home.php - to get on the centralized wait list
2. Local Housing Authorities (phone numbers above)

3. Other Affordable Housing, or “Subsidized” Housing

Subsidized housing is built, owned and operated by a private corporation (for-profit or non-profit) that received assistance of some kind from the government. The assistance may have been a loan, zoning relief, discounted land, etc. In exchange for that assistance the private corporation must agree to provide some units for lower income families. Below are some pros and cons of this housing:

- Rent may be a flat set amount OR you may pay 30% of your income for rent
- You must usually apply with each property management company separately
- Wait times are usually at least 2-3 years
- Condition of the units is usually good because it is heavily regulated
- Paperwork may be extensive

Locate Subsidized Housing at:

- www.MassHousing.com – click on “Rental Housing” and look up the MassHousing Housing List by development or town
- www.chapa.org – click on “Looking for Housing” and search MassAccess by town
- www.metrohousingboston.org/ – click on “Apartment Listings”
- www.boston.gov/metrolist - Subscribe to the MetroList newsletter to receive the most up to date information on available subsidized units.

Metro West Collaborative Development (Metro West CD)

A local affordable housing non-profit with a mission to create and preserve affordable housing, support economic development, and build alliances with partners and constituencies throughout the region in order to promote community development. Learn more at <https://metrowestcd.org/>

Metro West CD Housing Resources:

- Ready Renter Program – fill out an on-line pre-application and be notified each month of new affordable housing lotteries and wait list openings.

Apply at <https://metrowestcd.org/rent-a-home/>

- Housing Clinics – have questions about affordable housing? Need help with applications? Stop by the Metro West CD Housing Clinics on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 or 5:00-7:00. Reserve a spot with Evelyn at merkeisha@metrowestcd.org. Clinics are free and open to all.

4. Rooming Houses and Shelters

If you are in transition and need a roof over your head, you may look into “rooming houses,” where you rent a room, often with shared kitchens and/or bathrooms. Or you may need to find a shelter bed until you can get back on your feet.

Locate Rooming Houses and Shelters:

1. Caritas, for rooming houses
www.caritascommunities.org or call 781-843-1606
2. Mass Dept. of Housing
www.mass.gov/dhcd or call 800-231-4337
3. United Way’s First Call for Help: 800-231-4377

5. Rental Assistance - help with paying rent/other

RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition)

RAFT is a state-funded homelessness prevention program. RAFT gives short-term financial assistance to low-income families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. RAFT helps families who are behind on rent, mortgage payments, or utility bills. RAFT also helps families who have to move but do not have enough money to pay a security deposit, utility startup costs, or first/last month's rent. Families can get up to \$4000 within a 12-month period.
800-224-5124

www.massresources.org/raft.html

6. Furniture Assistance - for families with demonstrated need

Household Goods Inc. provides household goods (beds, other furniture and housing items), free of charge, to people in need, limited to what is in their inventory. Clients need to be referred by a provider organization.

530 Main St, Acton 01720

978-635-1710

<https://householdgoods.org>

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

www.bostonfairhousing.org/

The Waltham Alliance To Create Housing (WATCH)

WATCH can help resolve tenant-landlord disputes. They also offer a wide variety of workshops related to housing, and have some free legal services through Boston College Law School.

24 Crescent St., suite 201, Waltham 02453

781-891-6689

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, 02141

617- 876-5376

www.communitydispute.org

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

Main office in Boston; local office in Cambridge

800-323-3205

www.gbls.org/immigration/index.htm

Disability Law Center

The Disability Law Center (DLC) is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. DLC is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities.

11 Beacon St Suite 925, Boston 02108

617-723-8455

www.dlc-ma.org

Domestic Abuse

In an emergency, call 9-1-1 .

In a non-emergency, call Detective Jennifer Connors of the Watertown Police at 617-600-1310 for helpful information.

Resource organizations for battered persons include:

- Safe Link, Statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline (multi-lingual) 877-785-2020
- REACH (Waltham): www.reachma.org: hotline 800-899-4000
- RESPOND (Somerville): www.respondinc.org: hotline: 617-623-5900
- The Second Step (Newtonville): www.thesecondstep.org: 617-965-3999

Fuel Assistance and Foreclosure Prevention

Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP)

Available for both homeowners and tenants meeting requirements. Fuel Assistance applications are accepted Nov. through April.

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialists (SSRS)

For Watertown residents under 60 years of age.

Authorized to assist with the application process and submission of Fuel Assistance applications. The SSRS can meet residents at the Watertown Library to complete an application.

Jenna Willis, Watertown SSRS
617-744 -9585

Watertown Council on Aging/Senior Center

For Watertown residents 60 years of age or older.

31 Marshall St.
617-972-6490

Foreclosure Prevention and Credit Counseling

The Boston Home Center

A One-stop source for information on home ownership, refinancing, foreclosure prevention, and home repairs.

617-635-4663

www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/bhc/

Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services Inc.

CNAHS provides free foreclosure prevention counseling to distressed homeowners in Cambridge and neighboring towns including Watertown.

280 Franklin Street, Cambridge MA 02139

617-868-4858

www.cambridgenahs.org

Becoming a Homeowner

1. Take a Class

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. A schedule of classes is available at Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) at www.chapa.org.

2. Find a Home

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 Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) at www.massaffordablehomes.org and by CHAPA at www.chapa.org.

3. Find a Mortgage

Many banks and mortgage companies offer special rates and resources for first-time buyers. The One Mortgage program can significantly lower monthly payments and eliminate private mortgage insurance (PMI). www.mhp.net/one-mortgage

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 (The One Mortgage): www.mhp.net

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

Food and Cash Assistance

Food Resources

For All Households

- Watertown Food Pantry: 617- 972-6490
Tuesday 10:00- 11:30 A.M. and Thursday 4:00- 6:00 P.M.
80 Mt. Auburn St.
(Watertown Council on Aging/Senior Center administers this Pantry, 617- 972-6490)
- Watertown Catholic Collaborative Food Pantry: 617- 926-7121
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 –11:45 A.M.
770 Mt. Auburn St
- Helen Robinson Wright Fund at the Watertown First Parish: 617-924-6143
Town emergency funds, one-time food voucher
- Salvation Army: 781 -894-0413,
H.O.P.E. Kitchen breakfast and lunch meals served served Mon. - Fri. 10-Noon.
33 Myrtle St., Waltham
- Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen, managed by Middlesex Human Services Agency, Inc.:
781-894-6110, daily hot meal 4 - 6pm, including weekends and holidays
545 Moody St., Waltham
- FoodSource Hotline: 800-645-8333
Staffed by Project Bread, provides information and referrals to food programs in Eastern MA (140 languages and a TTY line, Mon - Fri 9 am- 5pm)
www.projectbread.org/get-help
- SERVE New England 888-742-7363, low cost food packages for those willing to volunteer 2 hours a month. www.communityconnector.org

For Households with Children

- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), 800-WIC-1007, food and formula vouchers for low and moderate-income pregnant or nursing women, and children under five.
Watertown WIC program: 857-523-2797
9 Russell Avenue (basement), first and third Fridays of every month.
All other days, Watertown residents may visit the Somerville WIC office at 366 Broadway, Somerville, 617-575-5330
www.fns.usda.gov/wic/howtoapply
- Free or Low Cost School Lunch & Breakfast: Contact school guidance counselor or principal for information and an application to the programs.
Child Nutrition Outreach Program: 617-723-5000
www.meals4kids.org

For Households with Seniors

- Springwell : 617-926-4100
- Watertown Council on Aging/ Senior Center: 617-972-6490, 31 Marshall St..
- The Senior Shuttle, available through the Council on Aging, provides transportation to local supermarkets weekly for a requested donation of a dollar round-trip. Call 617-972-6490 to be added to the route.

SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps)

Available for low-income persons, both single and families. There is a process for both first-time application, and re-certifications. The rules concerning food stamp eligibility are complex and change frequently. People are encouraged to check their eligibility yearly. The program is administered through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) in Massachusetts, unless a person is receiving Social Security. SNAP food stamps are for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens with limited incomes who buy food and make meals at home. People living in homeless shelters, group homes for people with disabilities, drug and alcohol treatment centers, and subsidized elderly housing are also eligible. Some people must work to qualify while others are exempt from the work requirement.

Questions /Applications for SNAP– contact local Dept. of Transitional Assistance (DTA) office:

Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) - Chelsea Center
80 Everett Ave., Chelsea 02150
Tel 617-551-1700
Mon – Fri , 8am - 5pm
www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/dta

*Online application for SNAP , new applicants only,
www.mass.gov/snap-benefits-formerly-food-stamps*

Watertown's SSRS can assist with application. Call 617-744-9585 to schedule an appointment.

Mass Legal Services has an online SNAP Advocacy Guide. www.masslegalservices.org/content/2014-food-stamp-snap-advocacy-guide

Cash Assistance

These programs give financial assistance and other benefits to families with limited income, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Cash assistance programs are for Massachusetts residents who need help paying basic living expenses. For description of all programs: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dta/cash-assistance.html

Transitional Aid to Families with Children (TAFDC)

Government program that gives cash assistance and other benefits to low-income families with dependent children. You must have a child or be pregnant to qualify , and you must have little income and few assets. Many families must also meet work and school requirements. Available through DTA. Chelsea DTA Office, see above.

Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)

Available through DTA. Chelsea DTA Office, see above.

Free Income Tax Return Preparation

The IRS offers Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for Elderly (TCE).

Free income tax preparation for low-income persons, through early April.

- The Watertown COA/ Senior Center, 31 Marshall St., 617-972-6490 (TCE site for seniors)
- Community Teamwork Inc: 978-459-0551 (VITA site)
17 Kirk St., Lowell
www.commteam.org/free-tax-return-preparation/

Healthcare, Medical and Mental Health

Healthcare

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: www.mass.gov/masshealth
MassHealth Enrollment Center
888-665-9993 (TTY: 888-665-9997)

Health Safety Net (“Free Care”)

Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services.

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

Medical hardship patients - file a separate Medical Hardship application.

877-910-2100

Mass Health Connector

An independent state agency that helps residents find health insurance and avoid tax penalties.

Mass Connector Care, a free healthcare plan for uninsured low-moderate income MA residents:

877-623-6765

www.mahealthconnector.org

Mental Health Services

Wayside Multi-Service Center

Provides prevention, outreach and counseling services to children, adolescents and families of Watertown and surrounding communities. Programs include youth development and leadership, student assistance programming, substance abuse, violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, in-home therapy, outpatient counseling, parent support programs.

127 North Beacon St.

617 926-3600

For counseling referrals, please call Wayside Intake Line at 781-996-5665.

www.waysideyouth.org

www.watertownyouthcoalition.org (for information on youth prevention/education programs)

For emergency psychiatric crisis intervention:

Advocates Mobile Crisis Team 781-893-2003

www.advocates.org/services/psychiatric-emergency-services

The Watertown Senior Center offers services of a social worker. 617-972-6490

Free/low cost medical clinics

Charles River Community Health
43 Foundry Ave., Waltham 781 693 3800
and
495 Western Ave., Brighton 617 783 0500
www.jmschc.org

Low cost dental care

- Charles River Community Health, Waltham (see above) for emergency care
- Regis College Dental Center, public health clinic of Regis College dental hygiene program, 1432 Main St., Waltham, 781 768-7250
www.regiscollege.edu/dental center
- www.disabilityinfo.org/fact-sheet-library/financial/dental-care-affordable/
- Tufts Dental School <https://dental.tufts.edu/patient-care/comprehensive-care-clinic>
- Professional Dental Image, Watertown, 617-924-6422

General Resources

Health Care for All
Questions on health care resources
617 350-7279
www.hcfa.org

Health Law Advocates
Health-related legal issues
617 338-5241
www.healthlawadvocates.org

www.mass211.org

Information and referral line available in 140+ languages that connects callers with social service programs in their local community.. Dial 211 or access website.

Employment and Education

These organizations help individuals (citizens, immigrants, refugees) find job training, employment and help in building careers.

They offer a range of services, from job search to training and more, some free and some at cost. They may serve those seeking entry level jobs, as well as those seeking professional occupations. They work with employers to place job seekers.

Services may change over time. Review websites for specific services available.

Also local public libraries may offer job search courses (resume and interview preparation, e.g.) and have databases at the reference desks.

JVS

A leading organization in job skills, career planning and employment, and ESOL.

75 Federal St., Boston, MA 02110

617-399-3300

www.jvs-boston.org/

Asian American Civic Association

English classes, social services, job training, college preparation.

87 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111

617 426-9492

<http://aaca-boston.org/>

YMCA Training, Inc.

Core training in certain specialties.

18 Tremont Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02108

617-542-1800

<http://www.ymcaboston.org/traininginc/traininginc-our-cause>

Career Source: Cambridge Center

186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Suite 310, Cambridge

617-661-7867

<https://masshiremncareers.com>

Dress for Success

Offers low income women clothing and training for transition to workplace.

989 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA. 02215

617 779-2177

www.dressforsuccess.org

High School Equivalency or HSE - HiSET Test (formerly GED)

Persons who have not graduated from high school or are not enrolled may obtain a high school equivalency degree (HSE) by passing a test that demonstrates high school equivalency. There are also State requirements with regard to age, the length of time since school, and residency in order to take the test.

See Massachusetts requirements at www.hiset.ets.org/

Prior to 2014, this test was the General Educational Development Test (GED). This changed as of 2014. *Now, high school equivalency is obtained by passing the HiSET test.* HiSET is administered by the Educational Testing Services (ETS).

See ETS website at www.hiset.ets.org/.

A high school equivalency diploma is recognized as key to employment opportunities, advancement, further education, and financial rewards. These tests are under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Their website will be updated eventually.

State website at www.doe.mass.edu/hse/

The HiSET exam has five sections: Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. More information about the test can be found at the Educational Testing Service website (see above reference).

Within a few years, the high school equivalency test will be modified for greater emphasis on writing skills.

Preparation books for HiSET are available at the Watertown Free Public Library. Also available online through the library are several databases of practice materials. To access these, go the Watertown Free Public Library web-site, www.watertownlib.org, click on the research tab at the top, then click on "Online Resources" on the left. The two resources that will be most helpful are [Learning Express Library - Learn a Test](#) and *Student Edition*.

For classes to study for exam:

Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline

800-447-8844

www.massliteracyhotline.org/hotline/

Many adult education programs sponsored by local school districts, colleges, and some community organizations, provide instruction for HiSET. 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 certain skills. The programs closest to Watertown are:

- WATCH CDC, Adult Education Program, 24 Crescent Street, Waltham
Contact Brian [781-891-6689](tel:781-891-6689) ext. 202
- Community Learning Center, 5 Western Ave., Cambridge, 617-349-6363
- Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition, Jackson-Mann Community Center, 500 Cambridge St. Allston, 617-635-5153

ESOL, Adult Basic Education (ABE) and High School Equivalency (HSE)

Programs with Free Classes

Project Literacy
Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main Street
617-924-8797
<http://watertownlib.org/projectliteracy>
(ESOL classes and tutoring)

Cambridge Public Library
Most at **Central Square** branch and **North Cambridge**
617-349-4013
www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/Services/theliteracyproject
(ESL classes at all levels)

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

Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)
167 Holland Street, **Somerville**
617-629-5500 , ext 6900
Affiliated with Somerville public schools
(ESOL & ABE/HSE classes)

International Learning Center/YMCA
100 Franklin St. (lower level/side door), **Boston** 02110
617-927-8244
international@ymcaboston.org; www.ymcaboston.org/ILC
(ESOL classes)

Jewish Vocational Services
75 Federal St. , **Boston** 02110
www.jvs-boston.org/english-for-advancement-free-program/
617-399-3131
(ESOL classes)

Community Learning Center
5 Western Ave., **Cambridge**
617-349-6363
www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforadults/communitylearningcenter
(Some courses for residents only.)

For those ages 60 or over, low cost daytime programs:

Watertown Senior Center
617 972-6490

Belmont Council on Aging (“Beech Street Center”), Belmont 02478
617 993-2970

Free Tutoring or Conversation Programs

Project Literacy, Watertown Free Public Library

123 Main Street

617-924-8797

<http://watertownlib.org/projectliteracy>

A Legacy for Literacy

Newton Public Library

330 Homer Street, **Newton** 02459

617-796-1364

<https://guides.newtonfreelibrary.net/ell-classes>

(ESOL Tutoring & Citizenship)

Boston Public Library at Allston Branch

300 N. Harvard St., **Allston**

Tuesday and Wednesday conversation groups

617-787-6313

English at Large

800 West Cummings Park, Suite 5550, Woburn 01801

Beginner English classes in Medford and Waltham

781-395-2374

www.englishatlarge.com

Programs that Cost \$

Bunker Hill Community College

Room B109, Charlestown Campus

250 New Rutherford Avenue, **Charlestown**

617-228-2468

www.bhcc.edu/esl/

(ESOL classes)

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

42 Brattle Street, **Cambridge**, MA

617-547-6789

www.ccae.org

(ESOL classes)

Newton Community Education

457 Walnut St., Room 101

617-559-6999

(ESOL classes)

Information about Programs by Geographic Location

Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline

1-800-447-8844

www.massliteracyhotline.org/hotline/

Other Resources for Immigrants

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Promotes rights and integration of immigrants and refugees. Umbrella organization for organizations helping immigrants. Will provide referrals to organizations which serve individuals.

617 350-5480

www.miracoalition.org

Refugee Support Group of Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment

www.watertowncitizens.org

Library websites

Most public library websites have links to other organizations which offer services, free or with a fee, for immigrants, including adult literacy and citizenship programs. Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

www.mblc.state.ma.us/directories/libraries/

617 725-1860

American Student Assistance

Information on education beyond high school, including access to college and student loans. Located at public libraries, including Copley Square, Boston. 877 332-4348

Legal Help

See "Advocacy & Legal Services" at www.mass.gov/service-details/finding-legal-help

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

617 371-12134

www.gbls.org/immigration/

Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau

24 Crescent St., Waltham

617 552-0248

www.mlac.org/programs.html

International Institute

One Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109

617 695-9990

www.iiboston.org

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

www.masslegalhelp.org

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau

617 495-4408

www.harvardlegalaids.org

Metrowest Legal Services, 508 620-1830

www.mwlegal.org

Translation Tools

- Most websites offer a translation feature to view website in other languages; frequently located at the top, bottom or side of page. Or users may use Google Translate at <https://translate.google.com> or cell phone translation applications.
- Immigrants should inquire whether there are services of an interpreter when dealing with hospitals, government agencies and schools.

Multi-lingual Watertown Resource Map

A resource map of Watertown - with detailed information in English, Chinese, Western Armenian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian - is available free at Project Literacy at the Watertown Library and at other sites in town. It is also online at the Library (under Project Literacy) and Town websites.

www.watertownlib.org/300/Watertown-Information

Watertown Public School website accessible in multiple languages. www.watertown.k12.ma.us

Town of Watertown website accessible in multiple languages. www.ci.watertown.ma.us

Developing Computer Skills

The Watertown Free Public Library offers free computer classes.
English Language Learners contact Project Literacy at 617 924-8797 or Reference Dept.

Watertown Community Education

Watertown High School

50 Columbia Street

617 926-7764

Courses throughout the year, at low cost.

[www.watertown.k12.ma.us/about_our_district/community_education/
adult_and_community_education](http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/about_our_district/community_education/adult_and_community_education)

Families

1. Childcare and Education

The Mass. Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). The State's Department of EEC is the place for parents and child care providers to get answers to 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.

There are resources for families and child development at the state's website (see below).

617-988-6600

www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/departments-of-early-education-and-care/

[The EEC provides a list of licensed preschool, home and center-based programs by town](#), so that families can see what is available in every community:
www.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/EarlyEduMap.aspx

Childcare "Vouchers", State financial assistance (partial) for childcare

The State may offer financial aid where both parents are working and the parents meet certain income requirements. The waitlist is very long.

Parents may enter their name on the waitlist by:

—Calling 211: KinderWait is the childcare voucher online waitlist; or

—Applying at their local Child Care Circuit (see below) office.

www.mass.gov/guides/early-education-and-care-financial-assistance-for-families

Child Care Circuit

This is a child care resource and referral agency dedicated to making quality child care accessible to every family that needs it. It serves both parents and child care providers.

For parents, this organization provides online resources and referral services, education and support, as well as access to financial assistance ("vouchers") for child care for income-eligible families.

For child care providers and caregivers, it provide training, professional development and support services.

190 Hampshire St., Lawrence

978-686-4288

www.childcarecircuit.org/

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Network (CFCE)

CFCE is under the Dept. of Early Education and Care.

There are over 90 CFCE programs across the state, and in total, the CFCE network provides services to 350 cities/towns, including Watertown.

Grants under CFCE for Watertown are delivered through the Early Childhood Dept. of the Watertown Public Schools.

The CFCE support local programs whose primary goals are:

Reaching and meeting the needs of children, especially those with multiple risk factors and/or hard to reach; providing families with access to comprehensive services; providing evidence-based early and family literacy opportunities; and providing families with support for continuity through early childhood transitions.

CFCE for Watertown manages **The Family Center** and **ParentChild+** organizations.

CFCE Watertown programs are dedicated to parent education and family engagement; early literacy and child development; collaboration between early education and care partners; transitions between early education and care settings, home and school; high quality programs and service delivery.

CFCE helps **families** with child development information; transition information and support; family assistance and timely support in periods of family crisis; high quality information on early education and care programs and referrals; family literacy and school readiness; family and community events; parent leadership opportunities; information about community resources that support the family as child's first teacher.

CFCE helps the **early education and care community** with accessing training and other professional development opportunities, opportunities to share best practices and resources, and finding technical assistance and local resources to meet quality standards

CFCE Grant Coordinator: Kathleen Needel, 617-926-7765
[Email:kathleen.maney@watertown.k12.ma.us](mailto:kathleen.maney@watertown.k12.ma.us)

The Family Center

The Family Center provides free services to families with children from birth through age five. Ongoing activities include: drop in playtimes, playgroups, parent education workshops, support groups, parent resource library, musical concerts, family events, and more.
30 Common Street
617-926-1661

[Email: cheryl.segreve@watertown.k12.ma.us](mailto:cheryl.segreve@watertown.k12.ma.us)

[Monthly Calendar of Activities: https://wpsearlychildhoodcommunity.weebly.com/](https://wpsearlychildhoodcommunity.weebly.com/)

ParentChild+

This free program is a *home-visiting* "learning through play" experience for parents and their pre-school children. Home visits develop a child's capacity for communication, prepare a foundation for success in school, help mothers and fathers become confident parents, and strengthen the parent-child relationship through positive interactions. In addition, families are encouraged to experience community activities for preschoolers and are informed about local resources for families.

Watertown and Belmont families with children between the ages of 16 months to 4 years are enrolled based on need.

ParentChild+

c/o Watertown Public Schools

30 Common St.

617- 926- 6699

www.parentchildplus.org

Email: linda.krieger@watertown.k12.ma.us

Newton-Watertown Creative Start

School for toddlers and preschoolers, with funding available based on income.

573-B Washington St., Newton 02458

617527-6689

www.communitiesunitedinc.org/newton-watertown

2. Other Support Organizations

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.

108 Water Street

617 926-5008

Parental Stress Line: 800-632-8188

www.parentshelpingparents.org

Jewish Family & 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 every family. The Center's programs include Visiting Moms--a home visit program for parents, and support groups such as the New Mothers Group for issues on sleep, feeding and parenting consultations.

1430 Main Street, Waltham 02451

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 voluntary. Young mothers are provided with support, information on child development, and help finding community resources. Women under age 20 who are pregnant with their first child are eligible to enroll. This program is available through Jewish Family & Children's Services, Waltham (see above).

781 647-5327

Wayside Multi-Service Center provides prevention, outreach and counseling services to children, adolescents and families of Watertown and surrounding communities. Programs include youth development and leadership, student assistance programming, substance abuse, violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, in-home therapy, outpatient counseling, and parent support programs.

127 North Beacon St.

617-926-3600

www.waysideyouth.org and www.watertownyouthcoalition.org

Freedman Center for Child and Family Development at William James College

Provides parents with a forum to meet, locate resources, learn about parenting, and find programs for children. Offers support groups for parents, playgroups for children and access to professional services for families.

One Wells Ave., Newton 02459

617 327-6777

www.williamjames.edu/community/freedman-center/index.cfm

3. Early Intervention and Screening Programs

Early Intervention, Birth to Age 3 – Services provided by State

Early intervention in Massachusetts is a statewide service, through the Office of Health and Human Services, available to families of children from birth up to 3 years who have a diagnosis, developmental delay, or who may be at risk for developmental delays based on 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 Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

When the child is 2 ½ years old, discussions occur with the family of a child receiving early intervention; the goal is to review options available when the child turns 3 and to assist the transition to services provided by the public schools.

www.mass.gov/orgs/early-intervention-division

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. To obtain an assessment for a child under age 3, the individual or parent would contact Thom Charles River (see below), which is responsible for early intervention evaluation and services for Watertown.

Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program

Thom Child & Family Services offers intervention and support for Watertown children, birth up to three years, who have developmental difficulties due to identified disabilities or whose development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

465 Waverley Oaks Rd., Suite 101, Waltham 02452

781-894-6564

www.thomchild.org

Age 3 and Older – Services provided through Watertown Public School

Once a child has reached three years of age, he/she may be eligible for services through the Watertown Public Schools. These services are available after screening and evaluation.

Any parent may request a screening of their child to determine if the child is eligible for services of the Watertown Public Schools.

Early Childhood Center, Watertown Public Schools

For screening appointment, Early Childhood Director, 617 926-7765

For more information, Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE), 617 926-7762.

4. Recreation

Watertown Recreation Department

Free and low-cost activities for adults and children. Call or go online to be listed on their notification list of activities.

617-972-6494.

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/index.aspx?NID=138

Watertown Boys and Girls Club

25 Whites Avenue

617 926 0968

Social, educational and recreational programs for children ages 7-18. Swimming pool. Summer camp.

www.watertownbgc.org

Dealtry Pool

Free outdoor swimming pools for adults and toddlers, part of the State Park system (DCR).

138 Pleasant St.

617 923-0073

<https://recreation.watertown-ma.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Dealtry-Pool-14>

Massachusetts Parks Pass

Low-cost annual access to State Park system for swimming, boating, beaches, hiking and more. \$60 for annual usage per car.

617-626-1250

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/places-to-go/

For obtaining a park pass, see

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/buy-parks-pass-dcr-generic.html

5. Local Summer Camps/Programs for school-age children

Programs are run by the Watertown Public Schools, by the Recreation Dept. of the Town of Watertown, and by the Watertown Boys and Girls Club.

Persons 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.watertown-ma.gov/271/Commission-on-Disability

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 800 322-2020.

www.icdri.org/legal/MassachusettsCAP.htm

Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

Beaverbrook STEP offers a range of supports and resources for men and women with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In addition to both residential and day activity / employment programs, the organization provides advocacy and placement services addressing the needs of individuals and their families.

85 Main St., 2nd Floor

617- 926-1113

www.beaverbrookstep.org

Guide to Watertown's Accessible Dining Establishments, 2012

www.watertown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16210/WCOD-Accessible-Dining-Guide-4th-edition-2012?bidId=

Senior Citizens

Marshall Home Fund

Provides financial assistance for programs serving the elderly in Watertown, and to individuals age 55 and over who are experiencing financial difficulties. Individuals must apply through an agency or town department, such as the Council on Aging ([617 972 6490](tel:6179726490)) or Springwell ([617 926 4100](tel:6179264100)).

For further information, write:

The Marshall Home Fund

120 Mt. Auburn St.

617- 972- 6490,

or email: info@marshallhomefund.org

www.marshallhomefund.org

Springwell

Springwell is a private, non-profit agency that serves seniors, individuals with disabilities and those who provide care.

Services include: information and referral specialists, free in-home consultations, in-home services and on-going case management. Some services are free, some are offered on a fee basis and some are subsidized by the government. Springwell also operates the Meals on Wheels program and is the Protective Services Agency (to prevent elder abuse) for seniors.

307 Waverley Oaks Rd., Suite 205, Waltham 02452

617 926-4100

email: info@springwell.com

www.springwell.com

Watertown Council on Aging / Senior Center

The Council on Aging, a department of the Town of Watertown, provides programs and services for Watertown residents 60 and older and their families which include: information and referral, outreach, shopping bus, health insurance counseling, income tax assistance, medical transportation and a variety of health, educational, and recreational activities at The Senior Center, including English as a Second Language.

The Council is authorized to accept fuel assistance applications for those age 60 and over.

The Council offers services of a social worker.

31 Marshall St.

617-972-6490

www.watertown-ma.gov/128/Council-on-AgingSenior-Center

2019 Directory of Senior Services by Watertown Council on Aging, available at Council's website.

Veterans

Veterans Services Office, Town of Watertown

Aids and assists veterans and their dependents in many ways, including: healthcare, eligibility for State financial assistance, financing of new homes, Social Security eligibility, educational benefits, employment opportunities, military funeral assistance, and assistance to families of mobilized service members. In addition to working with federal and state organizations, it works with local organizations which serve veterans.

Patrick George

Veterans' Services Officer

149 Main St., Office B-3

617- 972-6416

www.ci.watertown.ma.us/275/Veteran-Services

Sources of Financial Assistance

The Helen Robinson Wright Fund of the First Parish of Watertown

Provides small cash grants for residents with emergency needs.

Contact the First Parish of Watertown Unitarian Universalist.

35 Church St.

617 924 6143

www.fpwatertown.org

The Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation

Provides grants and supplies to families and child-serving organizations.

MTCF

PO Box 541002, Waltham

www.millertracychildrensfoundation.com

The Watertown Police Department

Can help with holiday gifts for families in need.

617 972-6500

Watertown Council on Aging

Manages a small emergency fund for residents.

617 972-6490