

## Career Spotlight: Back to school

Do you want to find a better job or increase your income? Furthering your education could open new doors. MBHP and our partners have resources that can help.

### Jewish Vocational Service

JVS-Boston can help you improve your English, prepare for college, learn computer skills, become a U.S. citizen and more.

[www.jvs-boston.org](http://www.jvs-boston.org)

### CONNECT

Chelsea residents can get help with taking GED classes, applying for college, signing up for online classes, and learning English.

[www.connectnow.org](http://www.connectnow.org)

### Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline

The Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline can connect you with adult education programs that offer one-on-one tutoring, small-group, or classroom instruction to adult learners.

[www.getrealmass.info/hotline](http://www.getrealmass.info/hotline)

### GED

Your GED could help open new doors to higher-paying jobs or applying for college. There are GED programs at Project Hope (<http://prohope.org/programs.htm>) and United South End Settlements ([www.uses.org/programs/wfr](http://www.uses.org/programs/wfr)).



Learning computer skills can help make you a stronger job candidate.

### Community College

For some, community college is an affordable alternative to enrolling in a four-year school. Students can transfer the credits they've earned to a state school or other college. Local options include Bunker Hill Community College (which has campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea) and Quincy College.

### American Student Assistance College Planning Center

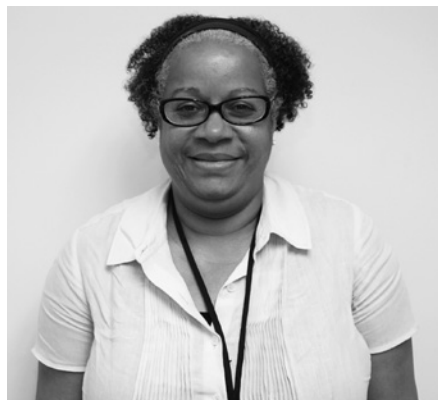
This group helps young people and adults from all backgrounds plan for college and find sources of financial aid. Locations are in Boston (Copley Square Boston Public Library) and Brockton (231 Main Street, Suite R)  
[www.asa.org/for-students/college-planning](http://www.asa.org/for-students/college-planning).

### Like our new look?

We've updated mbhp@home and our other print materials. Tell us what you think! Send an email to [info@mbhp.org](mailto:info@mbhp.org) or tweet us at [@mbphousing](https://twitter.com/mbphousing) and let us know if the new look is working for you.



## Meet MBHP: Gloria Rosario



Gloria Rosario has been a valued member of MBHP's Motel Re-Housing team for almost four years. She currently works four days a week at the Charles River Motel in Brighton, helping connect families who are homeless with the resources and support they need to get out of shelter and back on their feet.

**Hometown:** I grew up in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico in a big household. I was the second of a family of nine. I used to spend my summer in my grandma's house having good times with my cousins.

**Hobbies:** I love to watch 'Great Performances' on PBS. I also love gardening and baking.

**Food:** I like Puerto Rican food. My favorite dish is rice and black beans with salmon.

**Values:** Respect, empathy, dedication, and fairness.

**Motivation:** I get great satisfaction when I see the families I work with moving out of the motel and doing better.

**Accomplishments:** The birth of my son and buying my own house.

**Personal hero:** Sonia Sotomayor

## MBHP comes to Quincy

Thanks to the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, two new colocation sites help bring MBHP's services to Quincy residents.

We get it—sometimes coming into Boston can be a hassle, especially if it means taking time away from work or other obligations. At MBHP, we do our best to be as available to you as possible. One way we do that is through colocations.

With colocations, MBHP comes to you, so you may not need to visit us at our Boston office. Through partnerships with other nonprofits and agencies, we are able to meet with clients in the communities we serve, while also giving you a chance to learn about another local resource that may be able to assist you.

To help residents on the South Shore, we now have two new colocations at Interfaith Social Services and Quincy College. MBHP also has colocations in Chelsea and Somerville, as well as Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury.

For more information, including times, locations and services, visit [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org) and select Programs > Colocations: MBHP In Your Community.



MBHP Colocation Coordinator Tim Synan explains MBHP's services to students at Quincy College.

## Achieving her dreams: Ana's story

For more than 20 years, Ana paid rent with help from her Section 8 voucher. Now, she pays rent on her own and has saved a nice nest egg to plan her future.

A single mother of three, Ana worked the night shift for years to take care of her family, but it was still tough to make ends meet. She was beginning to wonder if she would ever earn enough to not need the voucher. But, after years of hard work, she can now afford to pay rent without her voucher.

"I can't describe how much the voucher helped me," Ana says. "When it comes to the end of the month you have that support. But when you can do it on your own, you feel so proud of yourself."

MBHP's Family Self-Sufficiency Program was one secret to Ana's success. In 2012, she enrolled and was matched with David, her FSS Advisor who gave her the resources and support she needed to meet her goals. Their partnership helped give Ana the



confidence she needed to succeed. "I wouldn't have done it by myself," she says. "You come to trust the person you're working with. It was a great day when David crossed my path."

FSS participants have escrow accounts to save more as they

earn more—as Ana's rent share increased, MBHP deposited money into a savings account in her name. Without FSS, Ana may have been able to increase her income and return her voucher, but because of her FSS escrow account, she is exiting the program with enough savings for a down payment on her first home.

FSS participants only give up their voucher if their income reaches the point where they no longer need it, and even then they will keep the voucher for six months before exiting the program to make sure their incomes stay steady. Ana looks forward to returning her voucher this fall and hopes the next recipient will make as good use of it.

"It feels great," says Ana. "I used to say one day, one day...that day came."

### TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN FSS

1. Get connected to school, jobs, and employment training.
2. Have your Section 8 voucher work for you.
3. Work with your very own life coach.
4. It's voluntary!
5. Save money to make your dreams a reality.

**If you are a participant in MBHP's Section 8 program, you can apply today!**

Visit [www.mbhp.org/family-self-sufficiency-program](http://www.mbhp.org/family-self-sufficiency-program) for more information.

You can also contact the FSS information line at (617) 425-6603 or email [FSS@mbhp.org](mailto:FSS@mbhp.org).

Not a Section 8 participant? Similar programs may be available. Visit [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org) or call MBHP's Housing Consumer Education Center at (617) 425-6700 for more information.

## Did you know?

### Childcare deductions from rent share could include summer camp fees.

If you have a Section 8 or MRVP voucher, you may be able to deduct summer camp expenses from your rent share.

Requirements for childcare deductions are as follows;

1. The child must be under the age of 13.
2. The care must enable a family member to work, actively seek employment or further his or her education.
3. Family certifies, and the child care provider verifies, that the expenses are not paid or reimbursed by any other source.

For more information, talk to your MBHP program representative. If you don't know your program representative's contact information, contact MBHP's Housing Consumer Education Center at [ResourceLine@mbhp.org](mailto:ResourceLine@mbhp.org) or (617) 425-6700.

### UPS Access Point™

If you're not home when UPS attempts to make a delivery, your package may be left at UPS Access Point locations for you to pick up at your convenience (including evenings and weekends). These include pharmacies, dry cleaners, and convenience stores that are partnering with UPS to safely hold your packages. To learn more visit [ups.com/AccessPointBoston](https://ups.com/AccessPointBoston).

## Back to school checklist

The first day of school will be here before you know it! Here are some tips and resources to help your family start the school year off right.

### Stay healthy

Take your children for a physical and an eye exam. Make sure they are up-to-date on all necessary immunization shots. It's best to be prepared in order to avoid staying home sick. If you need financial assistance to get your children health care, there are free and low-cost health coverage programs, such as MassHealth, that can help. Visit [mass.gov/masshealth](https://mass.gov/masshealth) for more information.

### Eat brain food

Children learn better when they are well fed. Check out grocery stores like The Daily Table in Dorchester which sells surplus food at discount prices. Most public schools have special programs to help kids get healthy meals. Programs like Greater Boston Food Bank's Back Pack program provide kids with healthy meals they can take home over vacations and long weekends—contact [programs@gbfb.org](mailto:programs@gbfb.org) or (617) 427-5200 for more information.

### Travel safe

Get your children to the bus stop five minutes early, and be sure the bus is at a full stop before allowing them to board. Remind children who ride the bus to stay in the driver's line of sight to reduce chance of injury—if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.

For children who walk or bike to school, review safety rules like looking both ways before crossing the street. If your child bikes, make sure they wear a helmet. Boston Medical Center offers free bike helmets to children up to age 17 enrolled in MassHealth. To request a helmet, call the BMC HealthNet Plan Member Services Department at (888) 566-0010.



## Upcoming workshops at MBHP

The following workshops will be held at the MBHP office:  
125 Lincoln St., 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111-2503

### Affordable Housing Basics

Learn about criteria, wait lists, and how to apply.

Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13,  
Nov. 10, or Dec. 8

10 – 11:30 a.m.

### Eviction Prevention

**(new name coming soon!)**

Learn tips to help you stay in your apartment for as long as possible.

Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6,  
Nov. 3, or Dec. 1

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Housing Strategies Clinic

Tips on finding and keeping a home you can afford.

Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20,  
Nov. 17, or Dec. 15

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Reservations are recommended for all workshops. To attend, register at [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org).

You can also register by calling (617) 425-6605 or emailing [workshops@mbhp.org](mailto:workshops@mbhp.org).

For all reasonable accommodation requests, including sign language interpreters, the use of the building wheelchair platform lift, or the need for an interpreter in a language other than English, please contact us at [workshops@mbhp.org](mailto:workshops@mbhp.org) or (617) 425-6605 at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date of the workshop.



Created at [www.tagxedo.com](http://www.tagxedo.com)

## Help MBHP rename our Eviction Prevention workshop

Creative minds needed! Tell us your favorite, or come up with your own.

Each month, MBHP holds a workshop for tenants to provide tips, guidance, and advice on how to establish good relationships with landlords in order to stay in your apartment for as long as possible. The workshop also educates attendees about the eviction process so that you know your rights.

The current name of the workshop is “Eviction Prevention.” We want the workshop to have a more positive-sounding name, one that will make renters, especially those who may have just signed their first lease, want to attend. And we need your help.

Some of our ideas for new workshop names are below. If you’re just starting out as a renter, which workshop would you be most likely to attend?

1. STAY (Sustaining Tenancy And You)
2. What to Expect When You are Renting
3. Housing Stability: Long-Term Solutions for Housing Success
4. Other—send us your ideas!

Send an email to [info@mbhp.org](mailto:info@mbhp.org) and vote for your favorite, or send us your suggestion for the new name. One person will be selected at random to receive a gift certificate.



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## Applying for RAFT financial assistance

**Has an emergency set you back financially? Do you need help catching up? RAFT may be able to help you.**

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) funds can be used to pay rent or utility arrears, first/last month's rent or security deposits, basic furniture, or other moving costs. Last year we gave out \$2.7 million dollars and helped more than 1,000 families deal with financial crises.

### How do I apply for RAFT?

Call, email, or stop by MBHP's Housing Consumer Education Center to set up an appointment where you can tell us more about your situation. Our staff will come up with the best solutions for you, which may include RAFT funding or other programs you may be eligible for.

There are eligibility requirements for the program, visit [www.mbhp.org/RAFT](http://www.mbhp.org/RAFT) for more information.

## Three ways to contact MBHP's Housing Consumer Education Center

Email [ResourceLine@mbhp.org](mailto:ResourceLine@mbhp.org). | Call (617) 425-6700. Para español, llame (617) 425-6685.

Stop by our office to set up an appointment.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays, we will make every effort to schedule you for a same-day appointment. We cannot schedule HCEC appointments for walk-ins on Mondays or Wednesdays.