

SUMMER 2020

THANK YOU TO THE HELPSTEPS COMMUNITY

STAY STRONG,
STAY SAFE.



Click Here for [Recent COVID-19 Statistics](#)

Visit our HelpSteps Home Page:
www.helpsteps.com/

Click here to watch our [Tutorial on How to Use HelpSteps](#)

Follow us
[@HealthyBoston](#)



Over the past few months the people of Boston have faced the spread of COVID-19. This unprecedented time has emphasized the need for a tool that can provide easy access to the broad spectrum of available health and social services. In Massachusetts, HelpSteps has been here to fulfill this need. We have seen an increase of over four times the amount of daily users on HelpSteps during this time. To make sure the information is reliable and current, our team has been working hard to update all the listed resources, especially those for homeless shelters, food pantries, mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

As the city cautiously begins to reopen, it is important that we all do our part to continue to minimize the health impacts of COVID-19. Organizations in Boston have stepped up to do what they can to provide care to residents. Our team at Boston Public Health Commission wanted to dedicate this newsletter to the agencies within Boston that have worked in this time of need to deliver services and limit the spread of COVID-19. On the following page, we have highlighted some agencies that we have seen step up to the challenge of COVID-19. More information on all of these agencies and others can be found on HelpSteps.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE WORK OF THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

Boston Health Care for the Homeless



Boston Health Care for the Homeless continues to offer care to an especially vulnerable community during COVID-19 with services including, but not limited to:

- Managing spaces with over 1000 beds for COVID-19 positive patients
- Operating testing tents around the city
- Operating a 24/7 hotline to answer questions from shelters



Project Bread

After schools closing due to the pandemic, the City of Boston and Project Bread partnered together to safely provide free breakfast and lunch to school children at locations across the city.

Project Bread continues to advocate to end hunger in Massachusetts and provide information about food assistance programs.

Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team



There has been an increase of domestic violence and a continuation of neighborhood crime following the outbreak of COVID-19. The Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team continues to offer a 24/7 hotline in order to support to any individual impacted by violence.

Want to learn more about HelpSteps?

[Click here to fill out our interest survey.](#)

Do you want to be featured in our next issue?



[Tell us about your agency's work!](#)



COVID-19 AFFECTS US ALL HERE IS HOW **HELPSTEPS** CAN HELP BOSTON

Click on each icon and linked organization for more information and resources.



HOMELESSNESS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most vulnerable populations is those experiencing homelessness. Visit mass.gov/ to find emergency shelters currently providing care.



ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Massachusetts Substance Use Education and Information Helpline

Helps to provide a 24/7 helpline for information services and referrals in regards to substance abuse and gambling. Call 800-327-5050



MENTAL HEALTH

Samaritans

These times can be difficult. Samaritans offers a 24/7 free, anonymous, and confidential Helpline where you can get support. Call or text 877-870-4673



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COVID-19 has led to an increase in domestic violence. If you or a loved one need to safely call, text, or message for help, mass.gov/ has listings of domestic violence service lines.



FOOD ACCESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened access to fresh and healthy food for many. Visit mass.gov/ for listings of food pantries serving during the pandemic.

Massachusetts
2-1-1 HelpSteps



A Collaboration of United Way, Boston Children's Hospital,
Greater Boston Food Bank and Boston Public Health Commission