



Housing Search Resources

Need help with housing search? Here is a brief guide to affordable housing, public housing, senior housing, and more.

For further housing search resources, please visit our website:

watchcdc.org/housing-search/

Waltham residents: If you have limited online access, please visit the Community Resource Center at WATCH, 24 Crescent Street Suite 201, Waltham, Monday through Friday 10am-4pm.

WATCH doesn't provide direct help with housing search.

1) What is Affordable Housing?

- Housing is considered to be affordable if total housing costs (rent or mortgage plus utilities, taxes, insurance, etc.) are no more than 30% of a household's gross income.
- The government designates an apartment as "affordable" based on deed restrictions limiting the rent. Most apartment complexes are required to have a certain number of apartments with lower rent. They have eligibility requirements and income limits, such as 60-80% Area Median income (AMI) and lotteries.

2) Affordable Housing - Search Engines

- **MassHousing Navigator** - A comprehensive online resource that helps residents of Massachusetts find affordable housing <https://housingnavigatorma.org>
- **Housing Works** - Searchable database by town of affordable and subsidized units <https://www.housingworks.net> or email: info@housingworks.net
- **MyMassHome** - The official online listing and search tool for accessible and affordable homeownership opportunities in Massachusetts. <https://www.mymasshome.org>
- **MCOHousing Services** - This website helps to search for quality, affordable homes in Eastern Massachusetts. <https://mcohousingervices.com/> or call (978) 456-8388
- **SEBHousing** - A list of affordable housing lotteries. Look closely at the income thresholds before applying <https://sebhousing.com/> or call (617) 782-2300
- **MetroWest CD** - Metro West affordable housing lotteries. <https://metrowestcd.org> go to 'Need help' then 'ready to rent.'
- **Metrolist** - Affordable housing in Boston and the greater Boston area. www.boston.gov/metrolist