

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MBHP's free apartment listing service connects tenants and property owners**

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership wants individuals and families searching for an apartment to kick off the new year in a new home!

MBHP is proud to announce the release of a major upgrade to its unique, free online apartment listing service. Located at [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org), the service now includes the ability for property owners to post photos of their apartments and to include mention of more amenities. Additionally, addresses will be linked to an online map service so prospective tenants can see the location of the properties.

The improved online service provides the Greater Boston region with a unique, free, real-time option for searching for affordable housing.

“We’ve learned from numerous tenants, property owners and agencies of the need for a comprehensive online service where people who are searching for affordable housing can, with a few clicks of a mouse, access a databank of available apartments,” said MBHP Executive Director Chris Norris. “MBHP’s free online listing service over the years has provided thousands of property owners and prospective tenants with such an option. The enhancements to this service will make it easier for tenants, property owners and housing search specialists to access the information and connect with each other more quickly.”

Enhancements to MBHP’s apartment listing service further the agency’s commitment to help find homes for families and reduce homelessness. MBHP Housing Search Specialist Theresa DiPietro swears by the online service in her efforts to help her clients find homes.

“The MBHP apartment listing is a great resource for the clients I am working with in housing search,” she said. “I work with families in shelter, and they have had great success in finding listings that have resulted in successful tenancies.”

Property owners also depend on the service to help them find tenants for vacant apartments. Jeffrey Hinds, who has apartments in Dorchester, Roxbury and other locations, has been using MBHP’s listing service for years, often leasing his units to tenants who use the MBHP listings.

“It’s definitely easy to use,” Hinds said. “I know a lot of MBHP clients use the listing service because I’ll get calls from them while they are at the MBHP offices. But I’ve also had tenants who aren’t MBHP clients contact me after seeing the listings online.”

The fact that the service is free is significant, said Hinds: “Property owners can get the word out there to tenants without having to spend any money upfront. That’s a real help in these tough economic times.”

Hinds said having the ability now to post photos and have property addresses linked to maps makes the online listing service even more valuable because it further increases visibility.

*everyone deserves a place to call home*

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Listing an apartment is easy. Property owners and managers can submit their information via an online form and have it posted within 24 hours. Enhancements to the site allow property owners to include photos of their units, give owners more choice in describing amenities, and automatically link the apartment's address with an online map service.

Enhancements give tenants and housing search specialists more options when looking for an apartment. In addition to searching by location, searches by bedroom number and rent amount – or a combination of the three – are now possible. The maps make it easier for tenants to see the locations of available apartments, and the photos can provide additional information on each unit.

Alice Beato recalls carrying a printout of MBHP's online apartment listings around with her when she received her Section 8 voucher a few years ago: "I used it to help me find an apartment," she said. Beato, who enrolled in and later graduated from MBHP's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, turned again to the free, online listing service when she bought her own two-family home. "I found my tenant through the MBHP listing! It's a wonderful service."

In accordance with MBHP's mission, the free, online apartment listing service connects prospective tenants with affordable housing options in MBHP's region; postings are within government-set affordability ranges and are within MBHP's 30-community service area.

"We're proud to be able to provide this needed service," said Norris. "We appreciate the generosity of the Lawrence Model Lodging Houses Trust and the Paul & Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation for funding to upgrade and enhance the online apartment listings feature on MBHP's Web site. We encourage anyone searching for affordable housing options to visit the site and take advantage of its features."

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MBHP is the state's largest regional provider of rental housing voucher assistance. We serve homeless, elderly, disabled, and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Our region spans Boston and 29 surrounding communities: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Braintree Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, North Reading, Quincy, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop and Woburn.

Our mission is to ensure that the region's low- and moderate-income individuals and families have choice and mobility in finding and retaining decent affordable housing; all of our programs and initiatives are designed to encourage housing stability, increase economic self-sufficiency, and enhance quality of the lives of those we serve. To achieve our mission and to promote efficient service delivery, we work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

We believe that everyone deserves a place to call home.

For more information, contact Beth Wagner at (617) 425-6691, or log onto [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org).

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