

Somerville Tenancy Preservation Collaborative wins \$50,000 grant to battle evictions

Wicked Local Somerville

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Somerville — A Somerville-based nonprofit, along with 11 other agencies and organizations, is slated to receive funds to help end homelessness in Somerville and 25 other Greater Boston communities.

The Metro Boston Network to End Homelessness announces the preliminary awarding of contracts to 12 area agencies and organizations to provide Housing First, homelessness prevention and diversion, and housing stabilization services as part of the network's efforts to end homelessness. Additionally, emergency funds to assist with these services will be available to families served by the contracted agencies, as well as to two additional organizations that will be leveraging staff support for these services.

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) is the convening agency for the Metro Boston Network.

"I am thrilled these agencies have stepped forward in partnership with the Metro Boston Regional Network to provide a much-needed service that I believe will prove to be replicable and will benefit families at risk of homelessness," said Chris Norris, MBHP executive director.

The Somerville Community Corporation will receive \$50,000 for Somerville Tenancy Preservation Collaborative eviction prevention and housing stabilization services with the Somerville Housing Authority, individual Somerville rental property owners, and the Somerville District Court. Additional partners include Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Somerville Homeless Coalition, and Somerville Mental Health Association.

Beyond the \$470,000 to be awarded to these agencies, an additional \$465,729 in emergency flexible funds will be available. The funds will be used for such necessities as first/last month's rent on a new home, rental arrearages, utility deposits or arrearages, and the like, and dollars must be directly related to obtaining or retaining housing. In addition to the 12 contracted agencies and their partners, MBHP and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center will use the emergency flexible funds to leverage staff services and help residents obtain and retain housing.

For more information about the Metro Boston Network to End Homelessness, call Laura Russell at the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership at 617-425-6698 or email laura.russell@mbhp.org.

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