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# New Lease for Families: an evaluation

Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

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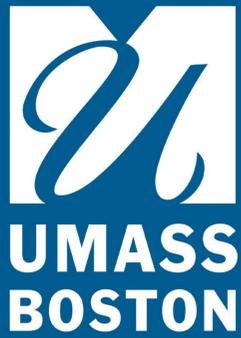
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# *New Lease for Families: an evaluation*

Center for Social Policy

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

## Summary/Abstract

The **Center for Social Policy (CSP)** was hired by the **New Lease for Homeless Families** to conduct an evaluation measuring specific outcomes of the unique housing interventions in their pilot program. New Lease for Homeless Families will connect 400 or more homeless families to affordable housing units provided by private and non-profit property owners over a two-year period. The infrastructure will then be in place to continue matching homeless families coming out of shelter to affordable housing units, which may change the larger systems of reducing family homelessness in Massachusetts.

## Results/Impacts

The three year evaluation period will provide ample time for the program to develop and to include data from alternative housing subsidies beyond the place-based section 8 certificates provided to year one families. In order to provide meaningful data, there will be a minimum of one year post placement. A three year period will provide ample opportunity to test different types of housing subsidies, account for a rolling enrollment, and provide an opportunity for partnership deepening and development.

## Conclusion/Next Steps

Project begun January 2014

## Center Team

**Mary Coonan**, Outcome and Evaluation Specialist

**Donna Haig Friedman**, Director

## Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to evaluate and measure outcomes through the lens of *systems-change*, with a focus on: measuring the effectiveness of their housing interventions; the extent to which stakeholders institutionalize these practices; and the feasibility of extrapolating these interventions to a larger level are top priorities for the pilot program. The combination of *process* and *outcomes* evaluation will provide insights into the efficiency and effectiveness of the program design.

## Approaches and Methods

The evaluation is a mixed-methods approach with both quantitative data analysis and interviews. The evaluation team is conducting both a *process evaluation*—the extent to which participating agencies, landlords and DHCD participated in the program as designed and anticipated—**and** an *outcomes* evaluation—which concentrates on systems-change in the following areas: standardization of housing admission process, centralized communication across all parties, enhanced stabilization services and flexible use of the emergency fund.

## Partnership Information

- New Lease for Homeless Families
- The Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)
- DHCD
- HomeStart

## References and Resources

- <http://www.onefamilyinc.org/Blog/2012/09/20/new-lease-for-homeless-families/>
- <http://www.umb.edu/csp>