



Programs & Services Committee Report

BUDGET

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Present: Councilors Rice (Chair), Sangiolo, Auchincloss, Leary and Kalis

Absent: Councilors Baker, Hess-Mahan and Schwartz

City Staff Present: Dori Zaleznik (Chief Administrative Officer), Deborah Youngblood (Commissioner, Health & Human Services), David Olson (City Clerk), Jayne Colino (Director, Senior Services), Donnalyn Kahn (City Solicitor), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #359-16(2) Submittal of the FY 2018 Municipal/School Operating Budget**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY18 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$395,313,737 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY18-FY22 Capital Improvement Program (#359-16). [04/10/17 @ 2:42 PM]
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/18/17; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/02/17

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #359-16 Submittal of the FY 2018 to FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/11/16 @ 11:28 AM]

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #359-16(4) Submittal of the FY 2018 – FY 2022 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2018 – FY 2022 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan. [04/10/17 @ 2:42 PM]

BUDGET AND CIP DISCUSSIONS

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The proposed FY18 budget for the Health & Human Services Department is \$3,908,970 which is a 10% increase over the FY17 budget. Deborah Youngblood, Commissioner of the Department, joined the Committee.

FY17 Accomplishments and Activities

Ms. Youngblood had provided materials for the Committee prior to the meeting which was included in their Friday packet. These included information on some of the programs and services that are being provided by the department and are attached for reference. The department provided programs this past year which reached about 2,000 people. These were events that targeted a spectrum of the community from child, family and older adult audiences.

The Newton PATH group has been very active which works with substance abuse and opioid awareness issues. There have been several large community events and the last was a parent/teen round table. The awareness program now includes informational fliers which are provided with every opioid prescription; the number of first responders with Narcan has increased; and Newton – Wellesley has been working with the City to be a provider of substance abuse resources and referrals.

Economic mobility has been targeted as an issue to address. The department has been working on ways to help people think about their next job or educational goals in order to be more economically mobile. Information such as the Cost of Living index for Newton was published to help residents understand what it actually costs to live in the City. They then turned that into a piece that was more user-friendly which helps people adapt the information to their own circumstance. From all that, a workshop has been developed and is just rolling out.

The restaurant food grading kit has just been completed. They received so many inquiries from other communities about the grading process, so they received a grant to put together a kit with the lessons learned in Newton for others to follow. The system has resulted in fewer priority violations, fewer repeat violations and improved grades in restaurants overall.

Social connectedness has been a priority because it has been proven that it is a key to emotional health and well-being. In the fall, they did a program that targeted older adults since it is well known they are a group that is at high risk for social isolation. The event provided ways for people to establish ongoing connections through things anywhere from book clubs to second career counseling. They also launched Activate Newton which is designed to promote social connectedness as well as physical and emotional wellness through some City walks with various organizations and groups.

The Youth Services program has been expanded and includes a larger internship program. There should be 100 high school students placed in summer internships and research has shown that this kind of experience helps young people develop needed skills for a more successful future.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Youngblood explained that the significant changes in the budget include an added \$50K for the Youth Services Program. This will be dedicated to providing stipends to the summer interns as it would be difficult for students to participate in the program and not earn money. Last year, the

money they were able to fundraise was not adequate to provide the stipends they had hoped. Since the number of interns is doubling, she felt it was reasonable to ask for funding for this great program.

A Case Manager position will be added to the department who will be located at City Hall. The case manager will serve across the lifespan and will perform significant outreach efforts. They have heard that so many people are not aware of the services that the City provides so this will help educate residents. The case manager will be able to meet with people at City Hall and at the Senior Center if needed, and will go to the library, food pantries and other locations to spread the word that services are available.

The Department will be taking on the nurse position that is currently at the Ed Center. This position had been funded through the School Department on a grant and has proven to be a huge help. Many vulnerable population programs are housed there such as Spring Board, Community Connections, Central High, and the Middle School Stabilization Program. The nurse has also taken on other key roles such as working with the out-of-district placement office, providing oversight for students who need one-to-one nursing and coordinating CPR efforts for the school health staff.

Committee Questions

It was asked if there has been any progress on the collaboration with Boston College on early childhood education. The Commissioner explained that a faculty member there has provided some research and the department is now reviewing the data. The research question was about pre-school access, more specifically, who are the families not using pre-school and why. Affordability is proving to be a huge issue as well as finding full-time, full-year programs that would serve working parents. Cultural differences could be at play here as well. About a quarter of eligible children in the City are not going to preschool. Ms. Zaleznik said the City is looking to propose some kind of program and since a funding source will have to be identified, the likelihood is that this would happen next fall. The goal would be to provide some kind of pre-school access to everyone on a sliding payment scale. There also needs to be an informational effort to families so they understand the benefit of this early childhood educational experience and that needs to include families whose first language is not English, but those families have not yet been identified. A Councilor would like this to be included as an outcome so that the effort will be budgeted. He would like to hear from the Boston College Faculty person when the research is complete.

A Committee member asked for more information on the addition of the Case Manager position. Ms. Youngblood explained that the position has been in the Senior Services budget and will be moved to the HHS budget. There has been a "dotted line" to that role all along because the Director of Social Services has been under the HHS department and supervises the two case managers, both of which have been working out of the Senior Center and serving all populations. The Director is in City Hall and should not really be doing a significant amount of direct service, so this move physically puts a case manager at City Hall. The department wanted to be able to meet with people in more than one location, with one dedicated to the senior population at the Senior

Center and the other at City Hall serving across the lifespan and working on outreach and follow up work. The Director can also step in to take appointments if more help is needed as well.

Ms. Zaleznik explained that the number of people seen by the case managers has been fairly static over the last five years at on average, about 400 seniors. When they looked into how many people a case manager could effectively see, they found the number was double and that also included time for follow up and necessary administrative work. The data did not support three case managers. This prompted the change with the intention to watch the results and adjust if necessary. It if seemed as though an additional case manager were needed, they would then ask to add one. Several Committee members noted that there is a rising population of seniors in the City and there is a need for more outreach to combat isolation. It did not make sense to take staff away from the Senior Center and the population they serve. Instead, there should be an additional person for the lifespan and additional outreach work. Ms. Zaleznik said she could give the Committee an update after a few months using the data to demonstrate how the new model is working.

A Committee member asked about hoarding issues among residents. Ms. Youngblood said there is a Hoarding Task Force working with residents and includes Police, Fire, Health and Inspectional Services Departments. The frustrating part of the work is the ability to make inroads with people. There are different ways to tackle the problem but there are often mental health issues involved. Trying to find the right moment and the right approach for people is the starting point and then there are tools to help going forward with cleaning help and counseling. The home situation as to be very egregious before departments can step in and declare a building unsafe for human habitation. Neighbors often complain but it is not the City's role to tell people how to live in their homes. However, from a public safety and human services perspective, it is beneficial to help people who may have mental health issues and who also may have life safety issues in their homes.

Environmental Health includes four inspectors who do food inspections on all restaurants, nursing homes, the hospital, schools and pools. They are also responsible for the mosquito prevention programs. The Commissioner reported that she has heard of no issues with the plastic bag ban.

The Youth Commission provides leadership opportunities for youth and the internship program is growing which has also provided some inroads into an internship program at Boston College. The Youth Services Director has been working on a project on inclusivity and a theatre group with young people of color, as well as other projects. The Director has been working hard to make the Youth Commission meetings and work accessible to both high schools.

It was asked if school start times have been discussed. The Commissioner said the research is so clear about the benefits for sleep for teenagers, but there have been no formal conversations or recommendations from her.

Newton Cares continues very robust work with groups of all ages around suicide prevention. There is a program being planned focused on parents in response to an unfortunately popular show called "13 Reasons Why" which is about teen suicide. It's a very disturbing glamorization of youthful revenge suicide with no adults in the entire program. This will help parents bring up the topic with their children and hear what people are worried about and what they don't know.

A Committee member asked the Commissioner how she felt about a polystyrene ban. She had no opinion at this point in time.

An ordinance has been docketed to eliminate the roadblocks for life science research and biotechnology businesses to come to the City. The Commissioner felt this is a very positive step and would move the City to a "gold" designation. Ms. Zaleznik noted that the Biosafety Committee is populated by a very high level group of professionals in the area and their advice has been invaluable. They would be the body screening companies who would come to the City to be sure they were operating in an appropriate and safe manner. There are a couple more steps to get the City to a "platinum" designation such as having pre-designated areas for labs. Newton is a wonderful alternative to Cambridge offering space and lower rents. The type of work being done has changed significantly since the rDNA ordinance was written so a major overhaul is needed.

The Committee commented that they would very much like Mitch Baker, Inspector of Weights and Measures, to join the budget discussions next year.

Ms. Youngblood said there were no changes to the department's revolving accounts.

The Committee voted in favor, unanimously, to approve the Health & Human Services Department's budget through a straw vote.

SENIOR SERVICES

The proposed FY18 budget for the Senior Services Department is \$595,773 % which is an 8% decrease from the FY17 budget. Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services joined the Committee. One of the case manager's will be moving from the Senior Services budget to the Health and Human Services budget and will be located at City Hall as was mentioned in the HHS budget discussion. The Senior Center needed a custodian as the one they had retired. Public Buildings was able to provide a custodian for the rest of this fiscal year. Starting July1, the expense will come from Public Buildings. The remaining case manager at the Senior Center will be fully funded by City money, which will then free up \$9K from the Formula Grant that would have gone into that position. The custodial services being covered by Public Buildings frees up an additional \$24K from the Formula Grant. Those monies can now be allocated to hiring a part-time program coordinator who will expand programming into the weekends, evenings and to more off-site sites that do not have staffing. This opens up more opportunities for off-site programming.

FY17 Accomplishments

Ms. Colino said their greatest accomplishment this year was Newton's Age Friendly designation and the implementation of their plan for a livable, all-age-friendly initiative. Along with that came the hiring of two staff positions. One is the outreach and engagement coordinator and she is helping to facilitate the age-friendly process. The other position is a volunteer coordinator and this is a huge piece of age friendliness to provide ways for seniors to engage in community life and civic activity. That coordinator was hired in August and since then 50 new volunteers have interviewed and vetted with 31 placed in positions. This brings the volunteer corps to 147 people. This number In addition, there are 38 people active in the tax-work-off program. That means 185 people engaged in Senior Services and other departments. Sometimes people cannot be placed based on certain cognitive limitations, but they work to find positions whenever possible.

A number of new positions have been created to engage volunteers in the Senior Center and in other departments such as the Vet Center, library, Newton Little League among others.

They have been working in conjunction with Brookline on the Trips program, which is a mobility management and counseling program for people who want to learn new ways of getting around such as the T. As part of the age-friendly process, they held focus groups with the Russian and Mandarin communities. Both were so successful because they were able to recruit volunteer interpreters. Parks & Recreation is challenged by primarily grandparents who are not familiar with English and have trouble with knowing the rules. There is also interpreter assistance in the library.

Ms. Colino said there has been an effort to let the community know of all the resources that are available in the City. The Council on Aging has been able to connect with people through listening sessions and key interviews as part of implementation of phase one of the age-friendly process. Over 200 individuals have been involved in these 28 listening sessions, some more open and some more selective. Internal and external key interviews have helped them understand what people think are the strengths in the community. These were multi-generational conversations Excellent programming at the Senior Center was mentioned quite often along with the Library, Parks & Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Access to nature, feeling safe and the great village centers were also appreciated along with the voucher transportation program, senior parking stickers and strong public schools. The areas that need improvement were identified as social isolation and generational disconnect, affordability, accessibility and modification of housing. An inadequate Senior Center and declining infrastructure such as broken sidewalks, and lack of awareness of current resources. Continuing to market and promote what all the departments of the City have to offer in support of seniors is key.

The department is required to submit an action plan to the World Health Organization and they have a date of January of 2018 to have the first draft. The strategic plan needs to be updated to marry the vision and mission with what they are learning from the age-friendly process to inform a very realistic action plan that can be accomplished within 3-5 years from submittal to WHO. They

are hoping to engage more people from the community to work on the articulated action steps that have been prioritized. This is an engagement process through the Council on Aging.

Council on Aging has developed an age-friendly criteria tool and a safety checklist. It suggests recommendations for stairs, lighting, etc. There is a draft of a housing guide which will help people understand the options for housing in the City and how to plan for a different housing option. That guide will be distributed to the City Council.

There is a newly formed bereavement group and have been doing outreach through the houses of worship on that. There is also a programs called Newton Talks which is a multi-department collaboration on oral histories. Crossing Generations is included as well which is a multi-generational group and they have been interviewing veterans, their families and new immigrants for the program. These can be found on YouTube.

The Senior Services Department offers over 70 programs a month with a goal to add 5 more. Five programs are offered outside the Senior Center. Newton Housing Authority has partnered with them on offering space for programming. Tai Chi is hugely popular and they would like to promote more.

A financial planning series has just been launched with two more sessions to come and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

They have doubled the number of people coming to their LGBTQ Elder Café. Julie Joy said she is an older adult lesbian and is working within her community and the program is expanding.

Committee Questions

A Councilor asked if the higher numbers stated in the goals in the budget were stretch goals or if they were attainable. Ms. Colino said having a dedicated staff person raising awareness of what there is to offer, will certainly bring more people into programs. Staff very often see seniors come in for one reason and then become involved in other programming. They have developed an info card that can be left at the police, ISD, Planning, etc. to share information and get more people engaged in programs and services. Councilor Kalis offered help as his background is in marketing and he would love to see more people know more about what is available. Seniors who are using the Senior Center are the best marketing tools by sharing their experiences. Many people tell her that the experience at the Senior Center is so much different than what they expected, in a very positive way. People connect through programming and become friends and do things outside the Center.

Ms. Colino said there really is a lot of ageism within the senior community. She has been told she should take "senior" out of the Senior Center, but she felt that might contribute to ageism and she feels it needs to announce what is going on there. The condition of the building itself keeps people away but thankfully there will be some cleaning and painting coming this fiscal year.

It was asked how the Newton in Motion program might work with seniors. Ms. Colino said things like way-finding signs with a focus on pedestrians and coordinated shuttles which could expand transportation opportunities for seniors would be extremely helpful. Problems with some intersections and unsafe sidewalks tend to keep some seniors home because they are afraid of falls so improvements there will be helpful. Age-friendly for seniors really means friendly for all ages.

It was asked how the transportation service is going. Ms. Colino said it continues to grow and she has requested the highest level this year from the revolving account to cover the expenses. She has projected utilizing \$220K. The bills run about \$29K-\$32K a month. The revenue will continue to come in from the voucher sales. The sales do not pay for the entire program so it is a collaboration between the riders and the city in terms of funding. They are deliberating on adding some more destinations like Harvard Vanguard in West Roxbury, among others. If a route system is developed via Newton in Motion that might help fill in some of the gaps as well. The feedback on this program is outstanding. It is easy for people to use and it is a dignified way for people to get around instead of waiting a long time for a bus or a shared van.

The Trips program is a federally funded DOT to the state which then distributes the money. Newton is partnering with Brookline Council on Aging and the funding was just doubled this year. Newton is now applying for the third and final year of funding. It helps counsel people around changing their driving and partners people with somebody who is comfortable with using the Green line, or ordering an Uber or taking the bus. They have developed a transportation resource guide for Newton and Brookline which is an amazing tool. More volunteers are needed for partnering. They also talk about how to speak to older residents to get them to stop driving when that is necessary.

Ms. Zaleznik said they will be monitoring the time that the case manager from City Hall might spend over at the Senior Center. There will be some fluidity between the two case managers and the two locations.

Revolving Funds

Ms. Colino said they do need to work on collecting more donations to get the revolving accounts back up to where they should be. Other revolving accounts are on par with previous years. The transportation revolving fund was discussed above.

Ms. Colino explained that a group from Day Middle School joined the Committee prior to the budget discussion to advocate for more funding for the Senior Center. They did an impressive job of expressing their concerns and possible action. They will be sending their presentation for wider distribution. A Councilor said that she has taken that to heart and will be advocating for more funding through this budget process.

The Committee thanked Ms. Colino, her staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging for their tremendous work. They voted to approve the Senior Services budget unanimously, 8-0 through a straw vote.

CITY SOLICITOR

The proposed FY18 budget for the City Solicitor's department is \$1,663,814 which is essentially a level budget from FY17. Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor, joined the Committee. She has made changes to the terminology of the staff. Instead of Associate City Solicitor, the new title will be Deputy City Solicitor. The term was confusing because in a law firm, an associate would be someone at a lower level and that did not match with the responsibilities of her staff. The Assistant City Solicitor title will remain.

Ms. Kahn noted that zoning reform and recodification are tasks that will be taken up in the coming year by the law department. This had been a concern of Councilor Baker's, so she wanted to address that time has been allotted and staff assigned. Marie Lawlor will continue to work on zoning reform and Jonah Temple will be assigned as well. Ms. Kahn and another attorney will be assigned to the recodification effort. Who that will be, will depend on workload at the time. On the last recodification, Gayle Smalley was called in to assist because it was a complicated project. She does not anticipate that level of complexity with the upcoming recodification because much of the work has been done and the ordinances have been updated in real time. The Traffic and Parking Regulations have been organized and updated as well, which was a large project.

This is Ms. Kahn's seventh year as the City Solicitor and she has worked on building in some duplication of skills with the younger attorneys so that as people start to retire, the institutional and subject knowledge is not lost. Ouida Young specializes in zoning, contract, ordinance, school construction and land use matters. Her institutional knowledge would be the biggest loss to the office.

Jonah Temple is the new land use attorney and specializes in zoning and smaller litigation cases. He was an intern in the law department and after five years of practicing land use and zoning matters has come back to the office and they are very pleased.

Angela Smagula is the expert on work with the schools and is incredibly accessible. Schools deal with issues on a daily basis such as disciplinary matters as well as a wide variety of other matters. The law department also works with principals and vice principals as well as the Superintendent's office. Ms. Smagula supervises an attorney that is paid for out of the school budget, Jill Murray. She conducts all school grievances and attends all labor matters. She also handles special education cases.

Jeff Honig is the labor lawyer for all unions in the City except for the construction worker and laborers union. Mr. Honig supervises Julie Ross on labor law issues. Ms. Ross also works on contract work, small litigation cases and staffs the ZBA along with Jonah Temple. Mr. Honig ended

his tenure in the Human Resources department about a year ago and Ms. Kahn is very pleased to have him back.

Marie Lawlor does zoning appeals, ordinance drafting and retirement law as well as closings on affordable housing matters.

Bob Waddick also does closings, contracts, and land transactions such as land swaps and easements. He is also an expert in water and sewer matters and works with the utilities division on some of those issues.

Alan Mandl works part time and handles telecommunications matters and negotiates cable contracts.

Two unpaid interns will start in the office at the end of the month. One is a third year student at Boston College and the other is a third year student at Harvard. They will be working on some interesting research issues.

Maura O'Keefe has been designated as the attorney for the City Council. She has been working on the drone ordinance and other issues for the Council. Ms. Kahn would like to see how this model works and changes can be made if necessary. Ms. O'Keefe is also working on public records requests. The City Clerk's office is tracking all requests with new software which is very helpful and is working very well. Newton has always done well with requests but the system is just another layer of protection that they will be addressed in a timely manner. Ms. O'Keefe is expert in appellate work and does the briefing work on that. Committee members were pleased that Ms. O'Keefe will be working with them.

The City always seems to have at least one piece of litigation in the federal courts and this year there were four. There are also numerous matters in Superior Court. The smaller district court matters are given to the junior attorneys and they observe on bigger matters as well so they can build experience.

Ms. Kahn explained that she does all the large litigation in the office. She allows Ms. Smagula to take on first chair and she will move to second chair on an alternating basis so that she builds experience and also lifts some of Ms. Kahn's workload. Ms. Kahn still does all of the civil service and MCAD (Mass Commission Against Discrimination) work. She would like to have one more person in the department get more experience doing the MCAD work

The Committee voted to approve the City Solicitor's departmental budget, 8-0 through a straw vote.

CITY CLERK

The proposed FY18 budget for the City Clerk's office is \$1.9M which is a 6.5% increase over the FY17 budget. David Olson, City Clerk, joined the Committee. He began by expressing thanks to the

great staff in the City Council, City Clerk and Elections divisions of the department as well as the 200 poll workers that assist with the elections

Mr. Olson explained that there will be a full-time archivist position added to the department's budget. This has been a part-time position, funded from the Library's budget. The funding will continue to come out of the Library's budget through the end of the fiscal year then switch over to the Clerk's. The position, while historically paid for through the Library, has always reported to the City Clerk. He added that there are no concerns with the funds that have been allocated and Mr. Olson feels they are sufficient for the work in the year ahead.

Early voting was very successful this past year, however, municipal elections are not authorized by the state to utilize early voting yet. He anticipates that the success of the early experiences will prompt the state to allow it for municipal elections in the near future. Early voting will resume next year for the state election.

The public records law has changed and the Clerk's office has purchased a software program, Next Request, which tracks and monitors all public records requests. The City Clerk is by-law the records access keeper for the City so he has taken on that role. Maura O'Keefe from the Law Department has provided significant help in getting that implemented. Next Request can be accessed through the City's website homepage and is simple to use for the public. The program sends an email to the appropriate department and he will monitor the progress to be sure requests are filled in the appropriate timeframe. The Police Department has a records request system as well, but police requests can also come through Next Request.

Drone registration is enabled and there have been 8 registrations along with the Newton South Drone Club. The City Council Newsletter goes out each week and there has been a great response to it. It provides updates that are concise and links to further information. Recodification will begin this year and the Clerk's office will be working with the Law Department on that. A Recodification Committee will be formed but he is unsure, at this point, who will be on that Committee.

Municipal elections are coming up this fall and preparations are beginning and there will be a preliminary election. New HDTV cameras will be installed in the Council Chamber which will improve the clarity of the transmissions. Plans are being made for the City Council retirement party as well.

There are 6,000 births at Newton-Wellesley Hospital each year and those certificates go through the Clerk's office. They have to be checked for accuracy and registered. Because Newton has a birthing hospital, it is considered a "birthing" community. The staff has to create the birth certificates and then make them available to surrounding towns. For example, if someone Needham has their baby at Newton Wellesley Hospital, they can go to Needham Town Hall, or to Newton City Hall.

Committee Questions

Certified birth, death and marriage certificates cost \$10. A Councilor said at another town hall she saw discounts for multiple copies.

Mr. Olson performs about 100 marriages a year. It is a nice service that he can provide for couples who want a small ceremony. There are some lovely spots around City Hall in nicer weather and the Council Chamber is a great location as well.

It was asked what has happened with the Speak Up software for public comment that was mentioned a few months ago. Mr. Olson said that he did not receive a positive reception by many of the Councilors. He has had some conversations with Councilors about bigger issues that are coming up and the staff and City Council could get inundated with emails, so some solution needs to be found and he continues to look into that.

A Councilor said that there have been issues about residents not receiving notices in the mail on projects. Land Use Committee is taking up the idea of expanding the noticing area to 600 feet from 300. Other communities require petitioners to pay for the cost of legal ads and for the mailing of notices. It was asked if that might be implemented at least for certain high profile projects. Mr. Olson said the current special permit fee does not even cover the cost of the legal ad, let alone postage for the mailings and staff time. There was an item that came to the City Council from the Planning Department last year about raising the special permit fees but the Council denied it. Perhaps it could come back in a different form for bigger projects to require a different fee structure. The fees have not been raised in a long time.

It was asked if there could be a requirement, for certain projects, to send notices via certified mail. Mr. Olson said that could happen but the cost of a piece of certified mail is \$6.50 and it would require a significant amount of staff time. A Councilor said that Weston requires the petitioner to send the notices and show proof of that. Maybe an item will be docketed but more thought needs to go into it first.

Off-leash dog park permit, 95% of the fee goes to Parks & Recreation and the rest stays with the Clerk to buy the dog tags.

The Committee voted to approve the City Clerk's budget unanimously, 8-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Rice, Chair

Fiscal Year 2017 Health and Human Services Community Education Programs

Older Adults

- Stroke Prevention
- Choking First Aid
- Brain Health as you Age
- Winter Preparedness
- Aging and Heart Health
- Falls Prevention
- Complementary Health Approaches
- Tax Deferral workshop to promote self-sufficiency and aging in place
- Social Network Building Strategies

Youth and Family

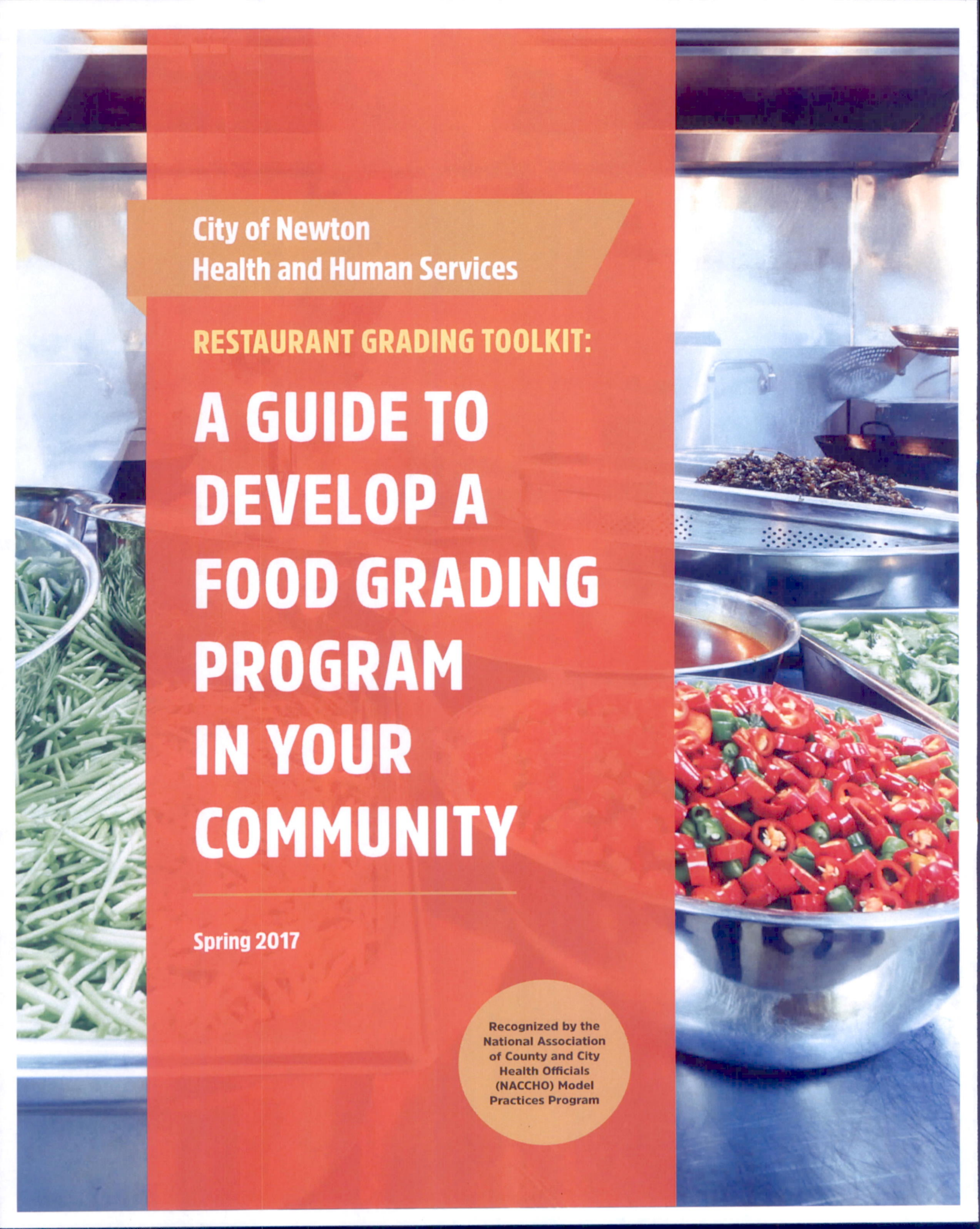
- Financial Literacy for young people
- Interviewing and resume building skills for young people
- Substance Abuse prevention expert speakers in each High School
- Promoting Inclusivity
- Teen/Parent Substance use round table
- Youth and Police Community Building event

Environmental Health

- Multiple Food Safety Trainings
- Ticks and Mosquitos in MA

General Interest

- Multiple Suicide Prevention events and trainings
- Opioid crisis awareness event
- Medical Reserve Corps recruitment and discussion event
- Activate Newton – walking and community building initiative
- Friends and Family CPR
- Building Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Human Rights Awareness events



City of Newton
Health and Human Services

RESTAURANT GRADING TOOLKIT:

A GUIDE TO DEVELOP A FOOD GRADING PROGRAM IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Spring 2017

Recognized by the
National Association
of County and City
Health Officials
(NACCHO) Model
Practices Program

Newton PATH

Addressing the Opioid Health Crisis

Newton PATH is Mayor Setti Warren's multidisciplinary team committed to confronting the public health opioid epidemic. We are dedicated to increasing public awareness about the risks and harms of substance use, as well as the long term needs of substance users in our community.

We promote the following:

P – Prevention

- Increase drug use prevention education
- Encourage healthy choices over substance use

A – Awareness

- Increase public awareness of the risks, signs, symptoms, and treatment options for substance use disorders
- Collect and distribute data on substance use and related issues in Newton

T – Treatment

- Identify resources for treatment
- Promote effective strategies for navigating a path to long term recovery
- Promote positive, solutions oriented responses to substance related emergencies

H – Hope

- 'Solutions over Stigma'
- Promote support for family members and friends suffering from a loved ones' addiction

Visit Newton PATH online for more info at www.newtonma.gov/newtonpath or email newtonpath@newtonma.gov.

Newton PATH: A Response Strategy for Opioid & Substance Abuse

Mayor Setti Warren and the City of Newton have developed a multi-disciplinary team committed to confronting this serious public health issue. The team, Newton PATH, is made up members of Health and Human Services, Police, Fire, Drug Court, Newton Wellesley Hospital, Newton Public Schools, the City Council, and community partners who work in the recovery community.

Newton PATH stands for **P**revention, **A**wareness, **T**reatment, and **H**ope.

The group has made some important accomplishments to date:

- ✓ Permanent drug take back kiosk in the police station to promote safe RX disposal
- ✓ A Community Awareness social media campaign designed and launched
- ✓ Community Event held October 2016 for teens and adults (approximately 200 attended)
- ✓ Developing better data collection and tracking to identify key trends
- ✓ Developed resource card for people in need of services
- ✓ Partnering with Newton Public Schools to increase prevention strategies, new resource posters in both high schools, school day prevention program held at each high school and Teen/Adult Round table community evening event Spring 2017
- ✓ Law enforcement instituting a new standard follow up for all substance use related calls to offer resources
- ✓ School nurses, police and firefighters now equipped with Narcan, a lifesaving drug which can reverse the effects of an overdose
- ✓ Outreach/education program launched at Newton pharmacies providing safe RX disposal info and opioid facts with all relevant prescription pick ups
- ✓ Partnering with Newton Wellesley Hospital in their design of enhanced support and referral systems for people with substance use disorder
- ✓ Outreach to local colleges to support their efforts in prevention and referral to treatment
- ✓ Plans to implement new substance use screening tool in grades 7 & 9 school year 2017 - 18

Newton PATH will deepen these efforts in the future. We intend to support the development of a grassroots, community-based recovery group to help support individuals struggling with addiction and their families. We also are working with NWH to offer follow up resource and referral support to patients discharged after an overdose. And the group is working with recovery centers to increase smooth access to treatment and support.

Visit Newton PATH online for more info at www.newtonma.gov/newtonpath or email newtonpath@newtonma.gov.

Trying to Stay Active?

Join us for monthly challenges and more!



STARTING
APRIL 2017

- Walking groups
- Fun activities
- Detailed walking routes
- Events calendar
- Challenges with the chance to win prizes
- All based in your community!

For more information, visit
www.newtonma.gov/activate

2016 Internship Sites:

Here are a few examples of internship sites from last summer. Visit their websites to learn what kinds of businesses or organizations you could be placed in!

STEM

- Unbound Commerce
- Big Belly Solar
- Green Newton
- Karyopharm

Newton Innovation Center

Healthcare

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Newton-Wellesley Hospital
- Newton Physical Therapy

Finance/Banking

- The Village Bank
- Belmont Savings Bank

Human Services

- West Suburban YMCA
- The Carroll Center for the Blind
- Hope and Comfort
- Center for Civic Engagement

History/Media/Art/Other

- Historic Newton
- Sandwich Works
- New Art Center
- Everpresent

Application Qualifications:

- Apply online @ newtonma.gov/youth_summerinternships
- Applications must include two references, from adults you know (coaches, teachers, etc.) References can be completed online at www.bit.ly/internref
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through March 24th
- Applicant must attend a Newton school or live in the city of Newton
- At minimum, applicant must be a rising freshman in Fall 2017

Questions?

Email Quinn Etchie, Youth Services Director @ qetchie@newtonma.gov

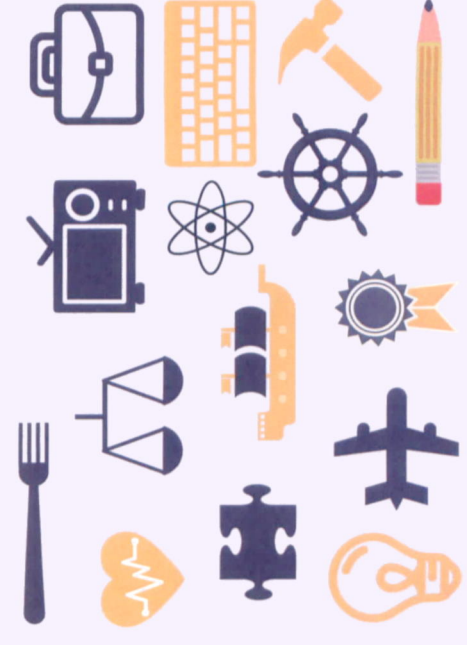
OR

Call (617) 796 -1436

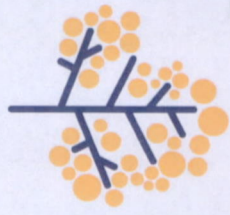
newtonma.gov/youth_summerinternship



Mayor's Summer High School Internship Program 2017



Planting the seeds for your future...



The Mayor's Summer High School Internship

Program is structured in order to give you the best possible summer experience. Each intern accepted into the program works between 10-15 hours per week at their internship site. In addition to this, all interns are expected to take part in a weekly, hands-on, skill-building workshop at Newton City Hall, led by Youth Services Staff. These workshops cover important topics like financial literacy, resume and cover letter writing, workplace communication, and problem solving. All interns are directly supervised at their worksite by adult mentors, but also have supervision and oversight from the Youth Services Director, Quinn Etchie. Quinn and her intern staff are always available to support you during your summer experience, as well as to answer any questions you may have about the program.

Building a Team / Learning New Skills / Making Connections

The Mayor's Summer High School Internship Program offers placement opportunities in a wide variety of businesses and organizations within Newton and beyond.

Q: How many hours will I work per week? A: 10-15

Q: When will I know if I have been placed?

A: All final decisions will be made by April 5th, and you will be notified by email.

Q: Is transportation provided to and from my placement?

A: No, you will need to carpool with other interns or take the T, but we may be able to help with a T pass!

Q: Can I choose my placement?

A: No, but we take your interests into account when matching you with your mentor!

Q: Will I be paid?

A: We are working hard to secure grant funding to pay each intern a stipend at the end of the summer, but it is not a guarantee.

Q: When is my application due?

A: All applications are accepted on a rolling basis through March 24th.

Apply online @ newtonma.gov/youth_summerinternships

A GUIDE TO MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Economic Growth for All Coalition
Mayor Setti D. Warren

Fall 2016

*Ways to
Engage as
We Age in
Newton*

Welcome! *Making Connections: Ways to Engage as We Age in Newton* grows out of the city's efforts to help older adults stay engaged in their community through enriching volunteer, recreational, or social opportunities.

The goal is to help connect Newton's older adults to the many opportunities available to them, often right here in Newton.

Below you will find a guide listing many organizations along with a description of their missions and offerings.

We hope you find exciting opportunities to remain involved in the community and find personal enrichment. Organizations that offer classes, workshops, and/or volunteer opportunities include:

AARP Experience Corps Boston/Revere

Contact: Kathryn Klister

617-339-4700

kklister@generationsinc.org

www.aarp.org/experience-corps

AARP Foundation Experience Corps is an intergenerational volunteer-based tutoring program that is proven to help children who aren't reading at grade level become great readers by the end of third grade. We inspire and empower adults 50 and older to serve in their community and disrupt the cycle of poverty by making a lasting difference in the lives of America's most vulnerable children.

Auburndale Community Library

375 Auburn Street

Auburndale MA 02466

617 552-7158

www.auburndalelibrary.org

info@auburndalelibrary.org

The Auburndale Community Library (ACL) is a non-profit community library. ACL is run by volunteers and get 100% of their funding from donations. In addition to circulating books, the library runs a variety of community activities such as the Drop in Knitting Club (held on second Saturdays of the month, from October through May). The ACL is open to all. To take out books you will need to obtain a circulation card. Volunteer opportunities are also available – including helping with maintaining the library and programming like Lego Club and Toddler Story Hour.

Boston Center for Adult Education

122 Arlington St.
Boston, MA 02116
617-267-4430
www.bcae.org

The Boston Center for Adult Education is the oldest nonprofit adult education center in New England. Founded in 1933, it quickly established itself as a cultural stomping ground where individuals could learn, discuss, create, and enjoy themselves. If you are looking to learn a new craft, we have the class for that. Check out our great art, photography, music, dance, theater & film, or our writing classes. Whether you want to brush up on your foreign language skills or prepare for a trip abroad, we have a language class that fits your needs. Want help in the kitchen? We have amazing, state-of-the-art kitchens where you can learn to cook or bake during a hands on class. Prefer to learn the art of tasting wine or mixing a cocktail? We have plenty of classes to get you started. Maybe you need to learn a new computer program for work. Take a computer class in our new lab.

Boston University- Metropolitan College: Evergreen Program

755 Commonwealth Ave. Suite B18
Boston, MA 02215
617-358-1350
evergrn@bu.edu

If you're seeking fresh knowledge, new friendships, and a vibrant, intergenerational community—and you are 58 or over—then join the Boston University Evergreen Program.

As the name implies, Evergreen offers opportunities for continuous growth and engagement. We invite you to stretch your mind and feed your passion for knowledge through our [seminars](#)—all conducted by Boston University faculty and expert guest speakers from outside the University. You'll hear informed perspectives on a range of meaningful topics, both current and historical, and witness performances that enlighten and inspire.

Evergreen also provides a valuable opportunity to share in and contribute to the Boston University student community. Many undergraduate and graduate courses are available for auditing, and welcome your participation on a noncredit basis. You'll discover that students of all generations benefit from the diversity of ideas, perspectives, and experience present in the classroom.

Boys & Girls Club of Newton

675 Watertown Street

Newton, MA 02460

617-630-2066

www.newtonbgc.com

info@newtonbgc.com

The John M. Barry Boys & Girls Club of Newton works to inspire and enable young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The Club's vision is to understand today's youth and develop tomorrow's leaders through a kaleidoscope of opportunities, fun-filled programs and great people. Many volunteer opportunities are available, ranging from coaching various sports, helping young students with their homework, supporting fundraising efforts, and bringing your own skills to the organization for a class or workshop.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

42 Brattle St.

Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-6789

www.ccae.org

The Cambridge Center for Adult Education provides high-quality, fun educational opportunities for the diverse adults of Greater Boston. Sign up today for a class in Cooking, Art, Music, ESL, French, Spanish, Wine & Spirits and more.

For more than a century, the Cambridge Center for Adult Education (CCAЕ) has provided an oasis of learning in the midst of the busy commercial hub Harvard Square. At CCAЕ, you can pursue your passions and interests in a welcoming community. Whether it's watercolor or French pastries, come to CCAЕ to learn with others who share your interests.

Discovering What's Next ESC of New England

176 Federal St. Suite 5C

Boston, MA 02110

617-357-5550

www.escne.org

Discovering What's Next emerged from a motivation to help people, often in midlife and beyond, to explore new ways to grow, learn and find meaning in their work and balance in their lives. A program of ESC of New England, Discovering What's Next opens doors for adults as they think about the possibilities.

Through intermediaries such as corporations, associations and other organizations, our purpose is to reach individuals in a fast-growing demographic of adults who are asking "What's next for me?" Our programs are recognized nationally as models for how to prepare for the inevitable transitions people experience from one life stage to another and how to find meaningful "encore" opportunities.

Communities Without Borders

130 Washington Street

Newton, MA 02458

617 233-6071

www.communitieswithoutborders.org

psmith@igc.org

Communities Without Borders (CWB) is an all-volunteer run nonprofit based in Newton working to enable a better future for more than 4,000 AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia, Africa through access to education and related care. Collaborating with community organizations and individuals, CWB builds enduring personal relationships that foster mutual understanding and inspire a shared sense of responsibility as world citizens. Volunteers work in Massachusetts for short-term projects to provide materials that are used in Zambian schools emphasizing education for girls, and CWB leads annual summer trips of self-funded service volunteers who teach, make friends, and work on projects in Lusaka.

Department of Senior Services/Newton Senior Center

345 Walnut Street

Newtonville, MA 02460

617-796-1660

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/seniors/>

The goal of the Department of Senior Services/Newton Senior Center is to optimize quality of life for older adults and those who support them through welcoming, respectful and meaningful opportunities that engage and value older people, and empower them to remain independent and to be important assets in our community. For more information on engaging opportunities, please contact the Newton Senior Center directly.

Discovering What's Next (ESC of New England)

176 Federal Street, Suite 5C

Boston, MA 02110

617-357-5550

<http://www.escne.org/discovering-whats-next/>

Through consulting, coaching and professional development services, ESC and its more than 150 volunteers are making lasting improvement in the nonprofit community. ESC's Discovering What's Next programs emerged from a motivation to help people, often in midlife and beyond, to explore ways to learn, grow and find meaning in their work and balance in their lives. Discovering What's Next seminars, workshops, content and eBook guides focus on encore opportunities (work or service with a social purpose), non-financial aspects of retirement planning, workplace engagement, life balance and other topics of interest. ESC's Encore Fellowship Program offers nonprofit organizations innovative and affordable solutions to meet their unique challenges across the range of strategic, operational and business development functions. ESC identifies accomplished, experienced and knowledgeable professionals, carefully matching them with nonprofit organizations where their paid Fellowships fill important needs and result in lasting impact.

Harvard University Institute for Learning in Retirement

34 Concord Ave.

Cambridge, MA 02138

617-495-4072

www.hilr.dce.harvard.edu

The HILR is a vibrant community of retired and semi-retired academics and professionals participating in an academic program of non-credit, peer-led study at Harvard University.

The Institute was founded in 1977 as a branch of Harvard's Division of Continuing Education. Its curriculum reflects the University's strong tradition of liberal arts and sciences and offers members the chance to explore subjects neglected during the course of demanding careers.

Hebrew College

160 Herrick Road

Newton Centre, MA 02459

617.559.8600

800.866.4814

www.hebrewcollege.edu

Hebrew College promotes excellence in Jewish learning and leadership within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, intellectual rigor, personal engagement and spiritual creativity. We empower and inspire individuals to contribute their voices and vision to the Jewish community and to bring Jewish values to bear on the critical issues of our time. Me'ah class programs are an initiative of Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. No prior formal Jewish education or knowledge of Hebrew is required. Financial aid is available, contact Hebrew College for details.

Hebrew Senior Life

1200 Centre Street

Boston, MA 02131

617-363-8000

<http://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/>

Hebrew Senior Life is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that has provided communities and health care for seniors, research into aging, and education for geriatric care providers since 1903. HSL is committed to a whole person approach to health, aging and well-being, with an emphasis on meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of residents and patients. Their commitment to redefining the experience of aging is rooted in a heritage of honoring and respecting elders. HSL offers senior living opportunities throughout Massachusetts including enrichment offerings like fitness activities and art classes.

Lasell Village

120 Seminary Avenue

Newton, MA 02466

Tel: 617.663.7000

Fax: 617.663.7001

www.lasellvillage.org

Lasell Village combines the security of a continuing care retirement community with the cultural, social, and recreational opportunities of lifelong learning. Designed on the scale of a small New England neighborhood, Lasell Village is located on the campus of Lasell College in Newton. Lasell Village, sponsored by Lasell College, is home to some 225 residents in its independent living apartments. The Village also includes Lasell Studios, a nine apartment-supported living unit and Lasell House, a 38 bed skilled nursing facility. The Village combines the elements of lifelong learning, retirement living, support services, short-term rehabilitation and long-term care.

Massachusetts Association of Older Americans

19 Temple Place, 4th Floor

Boston, MA 02111

617-426-0070

www.maoamass.org

The mission of MAOA is the active involvement of elders and socially conscious persons of all ages to join us to build a just, egalitarian and compassionate society. MAOA enriches the lives of all people through education, advocacy, and action on the issues that keep elders economically secure and engaged in life.

Newton at Home

206 Waltham Street

West Newton, MA 02465

617-795-2560

www.newtonathome.org

info@newtonathome.org

Newton at Home (NAH) is a non-profit, membership-based organization that is part of the national Village Movement. The mission is to work with older adults who wish to remain living safely and independently in their Newton homes for as long as possible. NAH offers a wide variety of practical services - such as transportation, handyman, and technology support - which are provided almost entirely by volunteers. NAH also offers a wide array of social programming such as restaurant outings, trips to the theater and museums, and outdoor activities.

Newton Community Education

457 Walnut St.

Newton, MA 02460

617-559-6998

www.newtoncommunityed.org

Newton Community Education is dedicated to your lifelong learning. We offer programs for everyone eager to explore—from toddlers to seniors—from Newton and beyond. We are a self-sustaining arm of the [Newton Public Schools](#). When the school day ends, our classes begin, offering access to school facilities for community learning. We aim to inspire or nurture your passion with quality programs provided at a reasonable cost.

Newton Free Library

330 Homer Street

Newton, MA 02459

617-796-1360

<http://www.newtonfreelibrary.net/>

The Newton Free Library brings the community together to enjoy, explore, create, and discover. The library is home to events and programming for young and older alike and volunteer opportunities in valuable community programs. English Language Learning and Literacy tutoring are available for those interested, as well as enrichment opportunities like Adult Coloring, Tech Time (advice for fixing

computers, smartphones, and other personal devices), 3D Printing, and more.

Newton Over 55

1000 Commonwealth Avenue

Newton, MA 02459

617-796-1506

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/over55/>

Newton Over 55 offers recreational programming like dance, sports, social programming, trips and wellness programming for Newton's older adults. The program is a part of the City of Newton's Department of Parks and Recreation. To sign up for Newton Over 55's email list, email Nancy Scammon at nscammon@newtonma.gov.

Newton-Wellesley Hospital

2014 Washington Street

Newton, MA 02462

617-243-6000

<http://www.nwh.org/>

As the western suburbs most comprehensive medical center, Newton-Wellesley Hospital offers the services and expertise of a major medical facility with the convenience and personal attention of a community hospital. Newton-Wellesley participates in various initiatives to ensure quality, safety and efficiency for our patients. We have expanded many of our services and have created new programs to meet the needs of the community and the patients we serve. NWH has volunteer opportunities available throughout their inpatient and outpatient services, as well as offering wellness center classes including CPR and first aid, yoga, and exercise and fitness.

ReServe New England

174 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114
617-910-5158

www.reserveinc.org

dsingleton@reserveinc.org

ReServe New England matches people age 55+ with social good organizations that need their expertise, talent and experience. ReServe connects “the talent” with nonprofits, schools, and public agencies to build capacity and help organizations achieve their goals. Volunteers (called “ReServists”) use their significant skills to work part-time in exchange for a modest hourly stipend paid by the host organization. ReServe opportunities are flexible and very diverse, such as jobs in direct service, mentoring, marketing, fundraising, IT, accounting, business strategy and development – for more information, contact Dan Singleton.

Riverside Community Care

270 Bridge Street, Suite 301
Dedham MA 02026
781-329-0909

www.riversideecc.org

Riverside Community Care provides children, adolescents, and adults with a broad range of behavioral healthcare and human services. RCC offers mental healthcare services including individual and group treatment for issues including depression, anxiety, hoarding, addiction treatment, trauma response and more. Their work includes partnerships with local hospitals and physicians. Riverside works hard to deliver compassionate, locally-based, integrated care. Learn more at www.riversideecc.org or find them on Facebook (Riverside Community Care).

Scandinavian Cultural Center

206 Waltham Street
West Newton, MA
(617) 795-1914

<http://scandicenter.org/>

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is a destination and resource for the exploration of traditional and contemporary Nordic culture and complementary cultural experiences. The Society, through the Cultural Center, is committed to positioning itself as the premiere hub for Nordic cultural activities in New England by sharing important elements of Scandinavian culture with the wider community. The second goal of the Scandinavian Cultural Center is to be a location for and source of enriching and thought-provoking events for residents of Newton and Greater Boston like their pop-up café featuring Scandinavian delicacies, film screenings, art shows, author series, workshops, and more.

SCORE Boston

Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building
10 Causeway Street, Room 265
Boston, MA 02222
617-565-5591

<https://boston.score.org/>

The Boston Chapter of SCORE, with over 50 counselors/members, both retired and working, have significant experience in the ownership, operation and/or management of both small and large businesses in many fields. Members offer free counseling and mentoring to those who wish to start or build existing businesses in the Boston area. SCORE Boston counsels at their main office in Boston and the Newton Free Library as well as ten other locations in Eastern Massachusetts, and offers unique volunteer opportunities for older adults.

The Silver Newtones

www.silvernewtones.com

email: MusicDirector@silvernewtones.org

The Silver Newtones is a diverse choral community of mature adults dedicated to spreading the joy of music. We provide an opportunity for participants to belong to a caring community of peers in which they can experience continuing growth, development and use of their talents, have joyful new adventures and have the satisfaction and gratification of helping others through their love of singing.

Springwell

307 Waverley Oaks Road, Suite 205,

Waltham, MA 02452

617-926-4100

<http://www.springwell.com/>

Springwell is a private, non-profit organization that is passionate about helping seniors and people with disabilities remain living at home in independence and dignity. They help people assess needs, identify supports, and coordinate services; and provide support for family members and those who provide care as they navigate the emotional, physical and financial maze of caregiving. Springwell can help with a range of services: from state subsidized programs that provide care management and in-home services coordination, to home-delivered meals, information & consultation, and protective services for seniors who are being abused. Springwell also has a number of programs that depend on the time and talent of trained volunteers including money management services, healthy living workshops, as well as friendly visitors, medical escorts and shopping assistants.

TRIPPS (Transportation Resources, Info, Planning and Partnership for Seniors)

93 Winchester Street

Brookline MA 02446

617-730-2644

info@trippsmass.org

www.trippsmass.org

The TRIPPS program offers a Senior Transportation Resource Guide to local travel options in Greater Boston, as well as individual, personalized support to residents of Brookline and Newton aged 60 or older. Peer mentors are available to help support seniors who are exploring their options and preparing for driving retirement. TRIPPS offers monthly educational events at the Senior Center and other local venues. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

Waban Library Center

1608 Beacon St.

Waban, MA 02468

Email: wabanlibrary@gmail.com

Waban library is completely volunteer-staffed and offers a quiet comfortable place to enjoy reading. Volunteering opportunities are available.

William James College INTERFACE Referral Service

One Wells Avenue,

Newton, MA 02459

617-332-3666 x1 (INTERFACE Helpline)

617-327-6777 (Continuing Education)

<https://interface.williamjames.edu/>

William James College is a graduate college of psychology, offering both Continuing Education events of interest to the public, as well as courses to pursue master's or doctoral level education in psychology, with a focus on experiential education. Continuing Education or non-matriculating courses may require previous training in psychology. William James College's INTERFACE Referral Service is a Mental Health Resource and Referral Service assisting callers to connect with outpatient mental health resources in their community, such as individual, couple's or family therapy, psychiatry or support groups. The Helpline is free and available to Newton residents of any age.

West Suburban YMCA

276 Church Street

Newton, MA 02458

617-244-6050

<http://www.wsymca.org/>

The West Suburban YMCA is a charitable organization that welcomes all by creating a community that serves individuals of any age, race, gender, religion, heritage, economic circumstance, or physical ability. We focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility to ensure all children, adults and families are healthy, confident and connected.

Your Village. Your Bank.



***“You can’t help getting
older, but you don’t
have to get old.”***

-George Burns

The Village Bank is proud
to sponsor Making Connections.



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Nonantum • Waban • Wayland • West Newton
www.village-bank.com • 617-527-6090
Customer Care Center 617-969-4300



Facebook.com/VillageBank

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FOR SENIORS
BY SENIORS



1171 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02465 | 617.877.3163 | seniorshelpingseniors.com/greaterboston


Seniors Helping Seniors provides non-medical, in-home senior care services to seniors, by seniors. Our caregivers are there to do more than take you to a doctor's appointment, help you prepare a meal or clean a room. They become a friend and a trusted part of your extended family. They treat everyone with the care and respect they deserve. They are why our clients say that we have the best hearts in home care!

- We can help each person stay independent in their own home by providing essential services including:
- Companionship
 - Light Housekeeping
 - Meal Preparation
 - Transportation
 - Doctor Appointments
 - Yard Work
 - House Maintenance and Small Repairs
 - Overnight Stays (24-hour care)
 - Personal Grooming and Dressing
 - Mobility Assistance
 - Dementia/Alzheimer's Care
 - Respite Care
- ...and more!




PLAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND


Preserve assets, protect benefits, live well.



For over twenty years, providing peace of mind to the elderly and to individuals with disabilities, and their families, through special needs trust management and social services.



PLAN, a nonprofit organization, operates two kinds of Special Needs Pooled Trusts that help individuals preserve their financial assets, protect their ability to obtain public benefits, and access personalized guidance and assistance with the use of their funds.



1340 Centre St., Suite 102
Newton Centre, MA 02459
617-244-5552

28 Spring St.
Pawtucket, RI 02860
401-330-7456

www.planofma-ri.org

Hebrew SeniorLife is proud to support the City of Newton's vision to engage older adults through personal enrichment and opportunities to give back to their community.

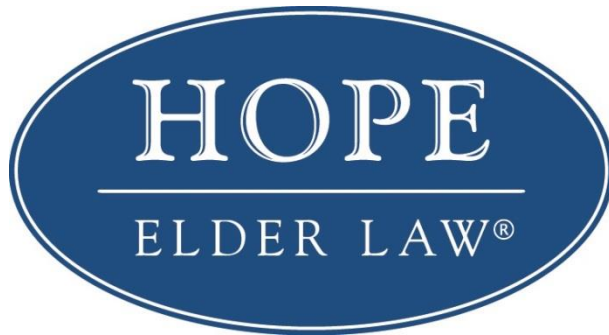
Reimagine. Reinvent. Redefine.

Hebrew SeniorLife is committed to transforming the way seniors live and engage with their world. From our continuum of services to our world-class research to teaching the next generation of geriatric care specialists, we are *redefining the experience of aging.*

The Power to Redefine Aging.




1200 Centre Street, Boston, MA 02131 617-363-8000 HebrewSeniorlife.org



Acknowledgements

A special thanks to the Economic Growth for All Coalition, with an emphasis on the Health and Well-Being Working Group, and Health and Human Services Commissioner Deborah Youngblood, PhD. for their hard work and dedication to promoting community engagement for older adults. For more information, please visit www.newtonma.gov/economicmobility.



Making Ends Meet in Newton

A Guide to Economic Security & Self-Sufficiency

Economic Growth for All Coalition

Mayor Setti Warren

City of Newton, Health and Human Services

Commissioner Deborah C. Youngblood, PhD.

With a Special Thanks to Dr. Geoffrey T. Sanzenbacher,

Center for Retirement Research, Boston College

Fall 2016

Introduction

This brief identifies what it *really* costs to live in Newton, Massachusetts. The City of Newton, (population approximately 88,000) is committed to promoting economic success for all of its residents. Recognizing that income inequality is a critical issue of our time¹, Newton's Mayor Setti Warren developed the Economic Growth for All initiative with the goal of creating a citywide blueprint designed to make the middle class attainable for every resident of Newton (2015). In order to promote access to a reasonable standard of living in Newton, one must first know precisely what income is required.

In what follows, you will read that it costs between 11 – 19% *more* to live in Newton than in surrounding communities. While it has commonly been understood that traditional measures of poverty grossly underestimate the number of people experiencing financial hardship, only more recently have there been more precise measurement tools that are attuned to regional and household configuration cost of living differences. For example, according to MIT's Living Wage Calculator², a single parent raising two children in Middlesex County (of which Newton is a part) needs to earn \$64,691 annually to make ends meet. With the help of Boston College Professor Geoffrey Sanzenbacher, we worked to overlay Newton specific cost of living data points onto the MIT formula in order to develop a City cost of living index. According to our new calculations, this same family with a single parent and two children needs to earn at least \$72,874 in order to afford to live in Newton.

This brief outlines the data and policy implications of developing a city specific cost of living index with the goal of facilitating economic self-sufficiency and access to the middle class. Additionally, the second half of the brief provides guidance and resources to residents who seek to attain economic self-sufficiency. While this document might have exclusively focused on data and policy, we include the personal guidance and resource information here to help all readers consider the challenges and solutions to building self-sufficiency in order to promote wider participation in making Newton a model city for economic mobility. Additionally, we have developed a corollary document, *Mapping Out Success in Newton* (forthcoming 2016), which is exclusively designed to provide guidance to Newton residents on becoming economically self-sufficient with less focus on the methodology and policy implications.

Newton boasts a strong school system, excellent record of public safety, and exists in the heart of a strong employment and post-secondary education region, offering many resources and amenities to residents and making it an exceptional place to live. However, Newton is not without its own set of problems. Cost of living is rising rapidly, and if Newton is going to maintain the ability to offer a great quality of life to a diverse array of residents (including older adults seeking to maintain their standard of living post-retirement), then a strategic approach to future development and planning is necessary. Otherwise, Newton is likely to become a

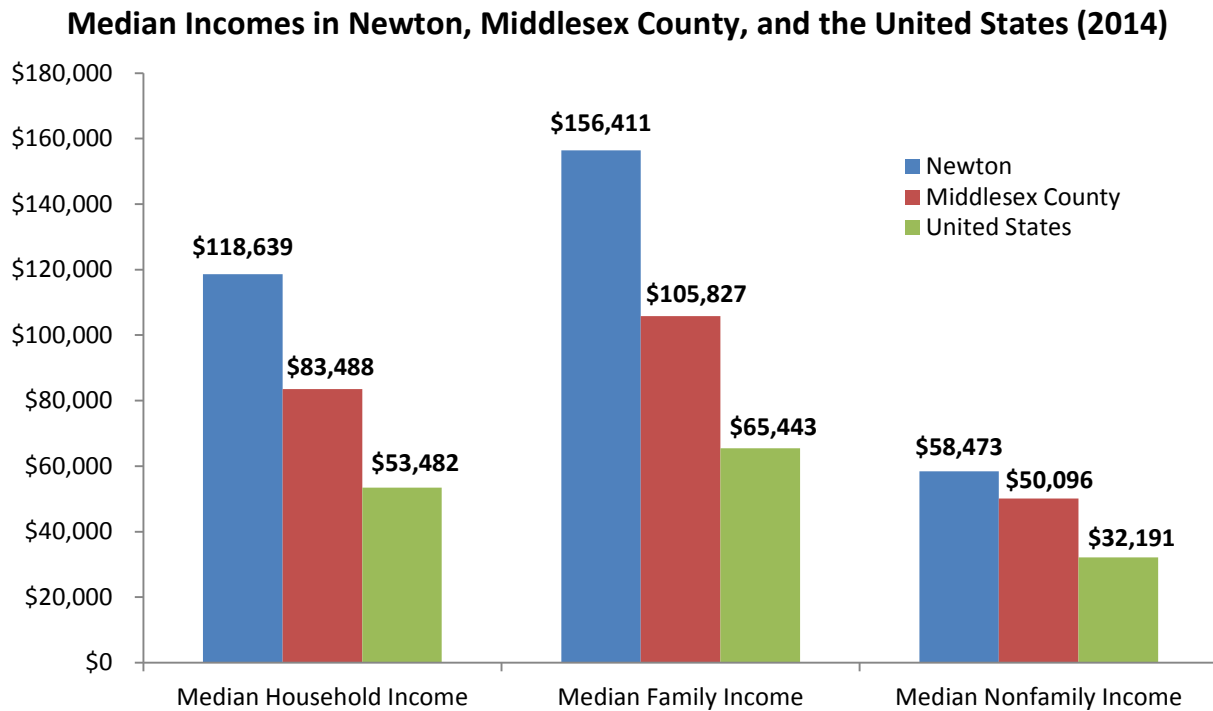
¹ Sommeiller, Estelle. Price, Mark. Wazeter, Ellis. *Income Inequality in the US*. Economic Policy Institute: June 2014. <http://www.epi.org/publication/income-inequality-in-the-us/>.

² Living Wage Calculator, MIT, <http://livingwage.mit.edu/states/25/locations>

community out of reach for all but a wealthy few –a stark example of the income inequality issue playing out on the national stage. This brief attempts to offer one tool in a developing tool kit to strategically plan for economic growth for all at the city level.

Section I: Newton by the Numbers

In 2014, median incomes in Newton were \$118,639 for individual households, \$156,411 for families, and \$58,473 for individuals without families – considerably higher than the average median for households, families, and individuals in Middlesex County, Massachusetts³.



SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2014

These median incomes establish Newton as a broadly prosperous city, but also present a series of unique challenges for the community. While the City of Newton has a fairly low percentage of residents living below the federal poverty level (estimated at 5.6% by the American Community Survey 2014, US Census Bureau), economic hardship is not reflected in federal poverty measures alone.

Consider the following:

³ American Community Survey 2014, US Census Bureau, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

- 11% of Newton school children are living below the poverty line, a 77% increase over the past five years⁴
- On average, more than 12% of Newton public school students qualify for free or reduced lunch, with over 25% of students in one Newton school qualifying for free or reduced lunch⁵
- Nearly 1 out of 8 households in Newton is living on an annual income of less than \$25,000⁶
- Newton has four food pantries serving approximately 1,200 residents per month. According to one food pantry, the numbers of residents served have more than doubled over the past several years⁷.

These data points are a sampling to illustrate that there is real need and hardship in Newton. And they support the argument that traditional measures of poverty underestimate the financial challenges of being able to support yourself and a family particularly in a high cost community like Newton. What this research reveals is that for a family with one parent and two children you need to earn nearly \$73,000 annually. For a family with two parents and two children you need to earn nearly \$78,000. Approximately 14% of Newton's families earn less than \$50,000 per year. And a full 21% of Newton families earn under \$75,000 annually which is not enough to make ends meet for many family configurations. Additionally, 6% of Newton residents over age 65 are living below the federal poverty level⁸. So while it's hard to estimate with precision exactly how many people in Newton are experiencing financial hardship, we can say with confidence that the number is both significant and is not in keeping with the stereotype of Newton's exclusive affluence.

Newton's cost of living is approximately 15% higher than for Middlesex County overall. Now consider that Middlesex is already one of the most expensive counties in Massachusetts to live in and that Boston is the fourth most expensive metropolitan area in the US⁹ and one can start to see that cost of living is definitively higher here than many other places. Aside from confirming what Newton residents could anecdotally tell you, that it's more expensive to live in Newton than other places, this research offers the kind of practical knowledge that someone

⁴ Boston Business Journal, 2015 http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/blog/mass_roundup/2015/11/the-massachusetts-towns-and-cities-with-the-most.html

⁵ Newton Public Schools, 2015

⁶ Bluestone, Barry. Corley, Tracy. *Demographic Projections for the City of Newton, Massachusetts*. Northeastern University Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, May 2014. Link: <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/68994>

⁷ Centre Street Food Pantry, Newton, MA. <http://www.centrestfoodpantry.org/mission>

⁸ American Community Survey, 2014, US Census Bureau

⁹ <https://www.expstatan.com/cost-of-living/index/north-america>

striving for self-sufficiency needs to know. It answers the question; *if I want to live in Newton, to enjoy the community benefits of good schools, excellent public safety, and close knit, vibrant community centers, what will I need to earn to be able to do so?* This is a vital question for many, including; young adults beginning to map out their career trajectories, for individuals looking to relocate to a new community, for those currently living on the financial edge, for retirees (or those planning for retirement) wanting to successfully maintain themselves in their hometowns – and many others.

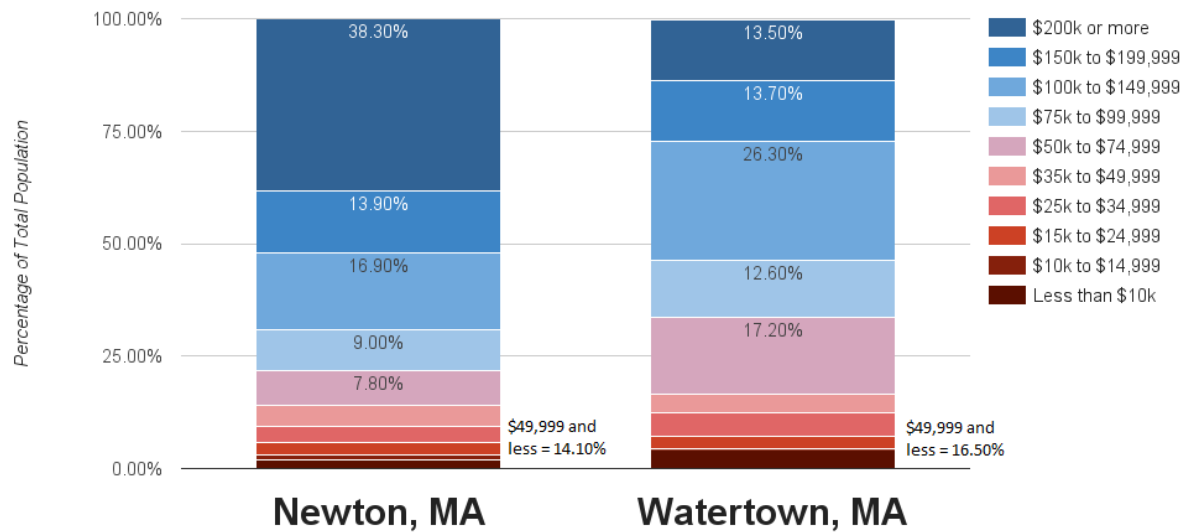
Newton specific cost of living data is also critical information for policy makers and government officials. Research has already established that place matters – that raising a child in a high opportunity zip code can positively impact their future outcomes¹⁰. Newton is a high opportunity zone. But how can it become one that people of diverse incomes can better access? And how can we consciously work to cultivate strong community relationships that embrace income diversity and recognize the ways in which the city is richer for it?

Newton provides a striking location to tackle these questions in part because the income inequality question is exemplified so dramatically here. While already establishing that there is financial hardship in Newton, one must also recognize that the stereotype of affluence is based in some real experiences as well. Nearly 40% of Newton families earn \$200,000 or more annually¹¹. Consider Newton's next door neighbor of Watertown where 13% of families earn over \$200,000 annually. Watertown's percentage of very low income residents is only a little higher than Newton's but there are many more residents earning moderate incomes, making the gulf between the very high incomes and the very low incomes less stark. Whereas Newton has far more people at the top of the income scale and very few people in the middle. When people talk in this country about the "hollowing out of the middle class," Newton provides an interesting case study. Below is a comparison of family incomes in Newton and Watertown:

¹⁰ Chetty, Raj, Hendren, Nathaniel, & Katz, Lawrence. The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment. Harvard University, 2015. http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/mto_exec_summary.pdf

¹¹ American Community Survey, 2014, US Census Bureau

Median Family Incomes in Newton and Watertown



Source: American Community Survey, 2014

Now consider current federal poverty guidelines: in 2016, the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$24,300 or below. For a single person, the poverty-level gross annual income is \$11,880.

2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines			
Family Size	Gross Annual Income	Gross Monthly Income	Approximate Hourly Wage
1	\$11,880	\$990	\$5.71
2	\$16,020	\$1,335	\$7.70
3	\$20,160	\$1,680	\$9.69
4	\$24,300	\$2,025	\$11.68
5	\$28,440	\$2,370	\$13.67
6	\$32,580	\$2,715	\$15.66
7	\$36,730	\$3,061	\$17.66
8	\$40,890	\$3,408	\$19.66
Over 8 add per person	\$4,160	\$347	\$2.00

SOURCE: Federal Register vol. 81, no. 15, January 25, 2016. pp. 4036-7. Monthly and hourly income calculated by OCPP and rounded to the nearest dollar and cent, respectively. The hourly rate is based on 40 hours of work per week for a full year (2080 hours). These guidelines are for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

One way to understand income inequality in this country is to understand that wide chasm between federal definitions of poverty and what it really takes to make ends meet in a community like Newton. While much research and community based programming tends to focus on dense areas of poverty such as inner city or rural settings, suburbs are also places where people struggle. Indeed, the smaller numbers of low income people surrounded by more affluent residents may render those low income people virtually invisible in many cases. And that “invisibility” may create specific challenges. What is the experience for someone who struggles to put enough food on the table living next door to someone with a large disposable income? What is the experience of the first generation potential college student surrounded by high school peers who all seem to have the inside track to the college application process and the ability to pay for it? Does the sense of isolation and potential shame create a lack of outreach and limit opportunities? Do the smaller numbers of low income people make it easy for the community at large to imagine that there really is little need, and therefore investments and support are unnecessary?

What *Making Ends Meet in Newton* provides is a starting place to identify what the issue of income inequality looks like in a very specific location and perhaps offers some key elements for promoting economic mobility. The goal is not to ensure that every individual or every family earns the same income or has the same standard of living. The goal, rather, is to ensure that every individual and every family has access to the opportunities to allow them to earn a self-sustaining or a family sustaining wage. Perhaps Newton can offer a valuable setting to explore and provide insights into a key question of our time, how do we best provide opportunities for economic opportunity to all of our residents? What kinds of programs, infrastructure and initiatives actually have an impact? And, if we can begin to see what works and what is possible in a small, liberal, resource-rich city such as Newton, then perhaps we can take some of those lessons learned and share them widely so they can be applied in other cities.

Newton’s Living Wage

The Living Wage Calculator was created by MIT’s Dr. Amy Glasmeier in order to provide a research-based national tool which calculates a regionally specific cost of living. This tool is valuable both for individual planning purposes as well as policymaking. The calculator allows one to identify a baseline income for households of varying sizes essential to cover basic living expenses. The Living Wage Calculator provides income data at the county level, although many of the budget line items are derived more broadly from state or sometimes federal data sources. Below are the living wage calculations for Middlesex County, Massachusettsⁱ, where Newton is located.

**Typical Expenses and Wage Calculations in Middlesex County
(One Adult Household)**

Annual Expenses	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children
Food	\$3,497	\$5,146	\$7,725	\$10,258
Child Care	\$0	\$10,012	\$13,416	\$16,820
Medical	\$2,496	\$6,564	\$6,364	\$6,332
Housing	\$12,139	\$17,072	\$17,072	\$21,265
Transportation	\$3,575	\$7,055	\$7,994	\$9,416
Other	\$2,146	\$3,894	\$4,682	\$5,290
Required annual income after taxes	\$23,853	\$49,743	\$57,253	\$69,382
Annual taxes	\$3,098	\$6,462	\$7,437	\$9,013
Required annual income before taxes	\$26,951	\$56,205	\$64,691	\$78,395
Living Wage	\$12.96	\$27.02	\$31.10	\$37.69
Minimum Wage	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00

**Typical Expenses and Wage Calculations in Middlesex County
(Two Adult Household, One Adult Working)**

Annual Expenses	2 Adults (1 Working)	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children
Food	\$6,411	\$7,972	\$10,271	\$12,514
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$5,096	\$6,364	\$6,332	\$6,447
Housing	\$13,614	\$17,072	\$17,072	\$21,265
Transportation	\$7,055	\$7,994	\$9,416	\$9,505
Other	\$3,894	\$4,682	\$5,290	\$5,013
Required annual income after taxes	\$36,071	\$44,085	\$48,382	\$54,745
Annual taxes	\$4,686	\$5,727	\$6,285	\$7,111
Required annual income before taxes	\$40,756	\$49,811	\$54,667	\$61,856
Living Wage	\$19.59	\$23.95	\$26.28	\$29.74
Minimum Wage	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00

**Typical Expenses and Wage Calculations in Middlesex County
(Two Adult Household, Both Working)**

Annual Expenses	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Food	\$6,411	\$7,972	\$10,271	\$12,514
Child Care	\$0	\$10,012	\$13,416	\$16,820
Medical	\$5,096	\$6,364	\$6,332	\$6,447
Housing	\$13,614	\$17,072	\$17,072	\$21,654
Transportation	\$7,055	\$7,994	\$9,416	\$9,505
Other	\$3,894	\$4,682	\$5,290	\$5,013
Required annual income after taxes	\$36,071	\$54,096	\$61,798	\$71,565
Annual taxes	\$4,686	\$7,027	\$8,028	\$9,296
Required annual income before taxes	\$40,756	\$61,124	\$69,825	\$80,861
Living Wage	\$9.80	\$14.69	\$16.78	\$19.44
Minimum Wage	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00

Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator (<http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/25017>)

While the MIT Living Wage Calculator estimates are helpful and lend a level of understanding to the income gap and to the importance of livable incomes as opposed to other definitions of hardship like federal poverty guidelines, certain Newton-specific costs make typical expenses in Newton higher than in Middlesex County generally¹². Because of this higher cost of living the City of Newton requested that Dr. Geoffrey Sanzenbacher, a research economist at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, create an adjusted living wage using Newton-specific data sources where possible and appropriate. The following adjustments were made in order to make the calculations Newton city-specific:

- Expenses for food, transportation, and certain other expenses were adjusted by the ratio of such prices in the Greater Boston Area to the ratio of such prices in the Northeast Census Region as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in May 2016.
- Childcare expenses were adjusted using data obtained from a research study commissioned by the City of Newton and implemented by Northeastern University students under Professor Gavin Shatkin, School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. This study, *City of Newton Preschool Needs Assessment* Spring 2016, offers recent Newton-specific child care costs. For the purposes of this analysis, the MIT living wage calculations were adjusted to reflect full day, full week programs.

¹² Quickfacts Newton vs. Middlesex County, US Census Bureau.
<http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/LFE041214/2545560,25017>

- Housing costs were calculated through a weighted average of housing expenses for home owners and renters in Newton, taking into account the average mortgage payment from Livability.com and the average rent as reported by Bluestone and Corley in Boston’s Housing Report Card in 2014.ⁱⁱ
- Dr. Sanzenbacher originally proposed adjusting medical expenses for Newton by using health care cost data specific to the Boston Metro region – of which Newton is a part – and weighting it against the greater Northeast region. This calculation resulted in Newton’s health care costs being well over 30% higher than the MIT living wage calculator provides, which is based on statewide data and therefore does not vary in any Massachusetts counties. While we agree that Newton residents likely pay higher medical costs than the MIT calculator measures for Middlesex County, we decided to leave the medical costs unadjusted, determining that even though this is an underestimate, the adjustment would not definitively demonstrate that Newton is more expensive than many of its neighboring cities and towns. Additionally, the methodology of this adjustment was difficult to breakdown into cost components and we feared the lack of transparency might obfuscate our overarching argument.

The following is the adjusted Newton specific cost of living table that Dr. Sanzenbacher developed:

**Expenses and Wage Calculations for Newton, MA
(One Adult Household)**

Annual Expenses	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children
Food	\$3,562	\$5,242	\$7,869	\$10,449
Child Care	\$0	\$10,809	\$14,484	\$18,159
Medical	\$2,496	\$6,564	\$6,364	\$6,332
Housing	\$16,845	\$23,690	\$23,690	\$29,509
Transportation	\$3,357	\$6,625	\$7,507	\$8,843
Other	\$2,099	\$3,808	\$4,579	\$5,173
Required annual income after taxes	\$28,359	\$56,739	\$64,493	\$78,465
Annual taxes	\$3,685	\$7,373	\$8,380	\$10,196
Required annual income before taxes	\$32,044	\$64,111	\$72,874	\$88,661
Newton Living Wage	\$15.41	\$30.82	\$35.04	\$42.63
MIT Living Wage	\$12.96	\$27.02	\$31.10	\$37.69
<i>Percent Difference</i>	<i>18.90%</i>	<i>14.10%</i>	<i>12.70%</i>	<i>13.10%</i>

**Expenses and Wage Calculations for Newton, MA
(Two Adult Household, One Adult Working)**

Annual Expenses	2 Adults (1 Working)	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working) 3 Children
Food	\$6,530	\$8,120	\$10,462	\$12,747
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$5,096	\$6,364	\$6,332	\$6,447
Housing	\$18,892	\$23,690	\$23,690	\$29,509
Transportation	\$6,625	\$7,507	\$8,843	\$8,926
Other	\$3,808	\$4,579	\$5,173	\$4,902
Required annual income after taxes	\$40,951	\$50,260	\$54,500	\$62,531
Annual taxes	\$5,321	\$6,531	\$7,082	\$8,126
Required annual income before taxes	\$46,273	\$56,791	\$61,582	\$70,657
Newton Living Wage	\$22.25	\$27.30	\$29.61	\$33.97
MIT Living Wage	\$19.59	\$23.95	\$26.28	\$29.74
<i>Percent Difference</i>	<i>13.50%</i>	<i>14.00%</i>	<i>12.70%</i>	<i>14.20%</i>

**Expenses and Wage Calculations for Newton, MA
(Two Adult Household, Both Working)**

Annual Expenses	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Food	\$6,530	\$8,120	\$10,462	\$12,747
Child Care	\$0	\$10,809	\$14,484	\$18,159
Medical	\$5,096	\$6,364	\$6,332	\$6,447
Housing	\$18,892	\$23,690	\$23,690	\$29,509
Transportation	\$6,625	\$7,507	\$8,843	\$8,926
Other	\$3,808	\$4,579	\$5,173	\$4,902
Required annual income after taxes	\$40,951	\$61,070	\$68,984	\$80,690
Annual taxes	\$5,321	\$7,936	\$8,964	\$10,485
Required annual income before taxes	\$46,273	\$69,005	\$77,949	\$91,176
Newton Living Wage	\$11.13	\$16.59	\$18.74	\$21.92
MIT Living Wage	\$9.80	\$14.69	\$16.78	\$19.44
<i>Percent Difference</i>	<i>13.50%</i>	<i>12.90%</i>	<i>11.60%</i>	<i>12.80%</i>

Child Care Costs in Newton vs. Massachusetts

	Newton	Massachusetts	Ratio
	\$10,806	\$10,009	1.08
Source:			

Newton: Newton Pre-K Datapoints. MA: Child Care Aware of America.

Newton vs. Middlesex County Housing Costs

	Newton	Middlesex County	Ratio
Housing cost	\$2,742	\$1,976	1.39
Ownership rate	68.70%	62.50%	
Rental per month	\$1,632	\$1,268	
Mortgage per month	\$3,248	\$2,401	

Source: Weighted average of the below.

Newton, MA from Livability.com. Middlesex County from U.S. Census. "Quick Facts."

Accessible at <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/HSG010215/25017>.

Bluestone, Barry and Tracey A. Corley. 2014. "Demographic Trends and Housing in the City of Newton."

Boston, MA: Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy.

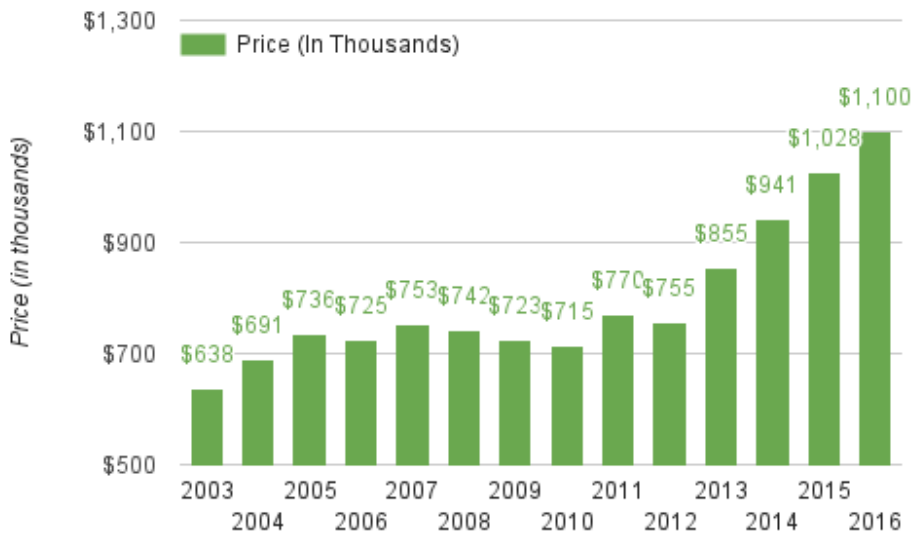
Newton, MA from Livability.com. Middlesex County from U.S. Census. "Quick Facts."

Accessible at <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/HSG010215/25017>.

The adjusted tables demonstrate definitively that it is significantly more expensive to live in Newton than in many of the surrounding communities. Newton's higher costs are largely driven by housing, with childcare being an additional driver. Housing is the most dramatic cost: this year, the median single-family home price in Newton is **\$1.1 million**, the median condo price is **\$560,000** – and if you combine the two – median cost for home ownership is **\$900,000** for Newton¹³. This is part of a continuing trend, as recent history illustrates a steep rise in housing costs.

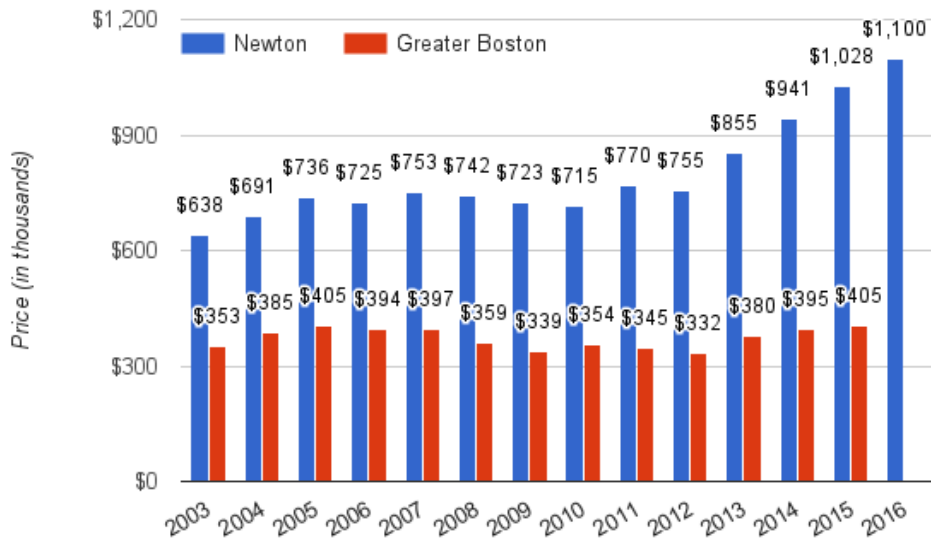
¹³ The Warren Group, 2016. The Warren Group collects and compiles data on real estate sales and ownership throughout New England. <http://www.thewarrengroup.com/business/data-solutions/town-stats/>

Median Single-Family Home Selling Price City of Newton, 2003-2016



Source: The Warren Group

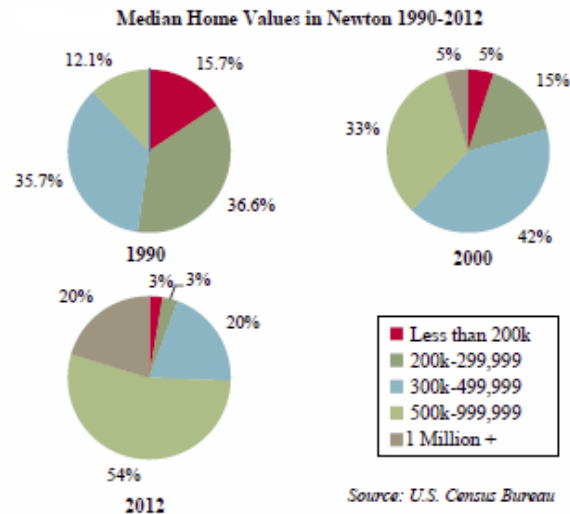
Median Single-Family Home Selling Price, Newton vs. Five County Greater Boston Area 2003-2016



Source: The Warren Group

In addition to high median sale prices, an analysis of home values also demonstrates that the housing stock in Newton is heavily skewed to higher-end properties, resulting in limited availability of properties for home buyers with lower or fixed incomes. In 2012, only 6% of the housing stock was valued at less than \$299,000 and only 3% was valued at less than \$200,000.

Rental costs are also higher in Newton than in surrounding communities. Average rental prices are \$1,672 per month in Newton, versus \$1,268 in Middlesex County overall. According to federal housing standards, households that pay more than 30% of their annual income on housing are considered financially overburdened by housing expenses and at risk of being unable to keep up with their expenses¹⁴. With an average rent of \$1,672 per month, Newton renters would need to earn roughly \$66,000 annually in order to pay less than 30% of their annual



income on housing. Furthermore, the average mortgage in Newton is \$3,248 per month, versus the average mortgage cost in Middlesex County of \$2,401 per month¹⁵, which results in Newton being 26% higher than Middlesex County overall. In order for a person to pay no more than 30% of their salary on housing equivalent to the average Newton mortgage, a homeowner would need to earn over \$129,600 annually. Given that the median household income was \$118,000 in 2014, a considerable number of households in Newton right now would not be able to afford a mortgage if they were getting one currently.

What is Newton Doing?

Mayor Warren and his administration are committed to tackling the issue of rising income inequality at the community level. In 2015, after several years of research and identifying initial stakeholders, Mayor Warren launched a new initiative called *Economic Growth for All*. This initiative is based on research from the Brookings Institution¹⁶ as well as Boston College's Center for Retirement Research, and identifies key benchmarks throughout the lifespan (birth through older adulthood) which are evidence-based indicators of increased likelihood of attaining and maintaining economic self-sufficiencyⁱⁱⁱ. In the fall of 2016 Newton announced a

¹⁴ US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/.

¹⁵ Newton, MA from Livability.com. Middlesex County from U.S. Census. "Quick Facts." <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/HSG010215/25017>.

¹⁶ Brookings Institutions, *Pathways to the Middle Class*, <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0920-pathways-middle-class-sawhill-winship.pdf>.

new partnership with Boston College designed to move this work forward over the long term. Boston College and the City will together lead the coalition of nonprofit leaders, business leaders, and academics from various institutions to design and implement impactful strategic work over the long term.



The Economic Growth for All coalition is organized into four issue based working groups:

- Self-Sufficiency Income
- Health and Well-being
- Education Cabinet
- Innovation Economy

Each group is deeply focused on key benchmarks within its focus area and collectively determining the best starting place for building infrastructure and designing the work to have the most impact possible. Below is a brief description of the current work of each group.

- **Self-Sufficiency Income** – focus areas include: adolescent financial literacy and career planning, early career experience and exploration, adult workforce development, overcoming barriers to work, retirement income planning and support, and promoting business development and policies that promote family-sustaining jobs. This working group is starting with a focus on promoting economic security for vulnerable residents including low income families and seniors.
 - Conceptualized and produced two briefs, **Making Ends Meet in Newton (2016)** and **Mapping Out Success in Newton (forthcoming 2016)**.
 - Supported **older adult job fair** hosted by City of Newton Senior Services and Riverside Community Care.

- Developed a **Self-Sufficiency program partnership** between the City of Newton and EMPATH (formerly Crittenton Women's Union) for low income parents designed to connect them to long-term mentoring resulting in economic independence called the **Bridge to Career Family Opportunity** program.
 - Supports **Mayor's Summer High School internship** program to encourage workforce exploration and career identification.
- **Health and Well-Being** - focuses on healthcare access, preventative healthcare and chronic illness management, prenatal care, substance abuse prevention and treatment, promoting social networks across the lifespan, crime prevention, and healthy relationships. This group is starting with a focus on mental health, suicide prevention and substance use disorders as well as working to reduce social isolation among older adults.
 - **Newton CARES**, which works to support mental health and prevent suicide.
 - **Newton PATH**, the city's opioid response group promoting prevention, awareness, treatment, and hope.
 - Became a designated an AARP **Age Friendly community** which is an indicator of the extensive work Newton has done and continues to evolve to be a great city for all ages to live, engage and thrive.
 - Developed **Making Connections: Ways to Engage as We Age in Newton**, an event and resource guide designed to help older adults create new and/or stronger connections in the community and reduce social isolation.
- **Education Cabinet** – focuses on reducing the achievement gap with benchmarks tied to early and middle childhood pre-reading and math, successful high school completion, college graduation or postsecondary job training, and lifelong learning. This group is starting with a focus on using out of school time and the preschool period as key intervention areas to reduce the achievement gap and promote educational success. The following are current approaches that are being developed and implemented:
 - **Mayor's Summer High School Internship Program**, which promotes real-world career experience and workshop-based skill building with an emphasis on providing opportunities for those most in need (connected to both Education and Self-Sufficiency income working groups) and is in its fourth year of growth.
 - **Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge**, which promotes academic success and helps reduce the summer skills slide in students.
 - **Preschool Access Research**, which is being conducted (Summer/Fall 2016) to assess community needs to ensure kindergarten readiness for all our students, commissioned by the City of Newton.
 - Chosen pilot city for **Harvard's Education Redesign Lab – By All Means initiative**, led by former Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville. Building pilot program on out-of-school time designed to encourage career/interest exploration and include positive social/emotional development through peer relationships, mentoring relationships, and confidence and skill building.

- Participating in **Boston College's Interconnect ED initiative** aimed at developing an infrastructure to integrate education with social services, youth development, and physical and mental health resources for Massachusetts children and families.
- **Innovation Economy** – encompasses benchmarks relevant to promoting a business friendly climate for entrepreneurs, building regional partnerships, expanding access to transportation, and diversifying housing in Newton. This work is the driving force behind not only promoting economic innovation and entrepreneurship in the community but also ensuring that there is access for those who have traditionally been left behind by this part of the economy. Some of the strategic approaches that are ongoing include:
 - The Warren administration facilitated the satellite office of **Mass Challenge** opening in Newton Corner to encourage entrepreneurship locally with an emphasis on providing access to those traditionally left out of the startup economy.
 - Mayor Warren initiated and then partnered with the Newton-Needham Regional Chamber of Commerce to implement the **N² Corridor** – a public-private initiative designed to promote the area as a destination for technology companies, start-ups, and other innovators.
 - Mayor Warren initiated and supports the development of the **Charles River Mill District**, a regional partnership to collaborate and advocate for infrastructure and regional transit improvements and promotion of the district.
 - The City of Newton commissioned the **Comprehensive Transportation Study (to be released in fall 2016)** designed to outline positive investments in transportation to support physical access to work and resources for all.
 - The City of Newton commissioned the **Housing Strategy** research to promote housing opportunities for diverse needs¹⁷, including housing that encourages the inclusion of the millennial workforce and our public servants such as teachers and public safety officers in our community.
 - Mayor Warren designed an innovative energy program, the **Mayor's Community Share program**, in which publicly-owned solar panels will be used to provide energy credits to low-income residents.

The Economic Growth for All coalition is under the larger umbrella of Mayor Warren's *Newton Leads 2040* initiative. This initiative is a long-term strategic planning project designed to create a sustainable city that has the necessary infrastructure to educate, house, transport, protect, and serve *all* the residents of Newton. As part of this larger strategic conversation and planning, this brief offers additional evidence that Newton is at something of a crossroads: the city can either continue on its current trajectory which will likely result in Newton becoming a community increasingly out of reach for all but the wealthiest constituents. Alternatively, civic

¹⁷ http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/housing_strategy4/housing2.asp

leaders and community stakeholders can develop and implement strategic policy initiatives which promote increased accessibility for a wider range of income levels¹⁸.

The next section will focus on how an individual or head of household can create a personal map to self-sufficiency which will allow them to live in Newton and be part of the community.

Section II: A Personal Guide to Self-Sufficiency Planning

Getting From Here to There



Surrounded by affluence, low and middle income residents may at times feel like there are no pathways to the resources their neighbors seem to acquire with ease. While not easy or always

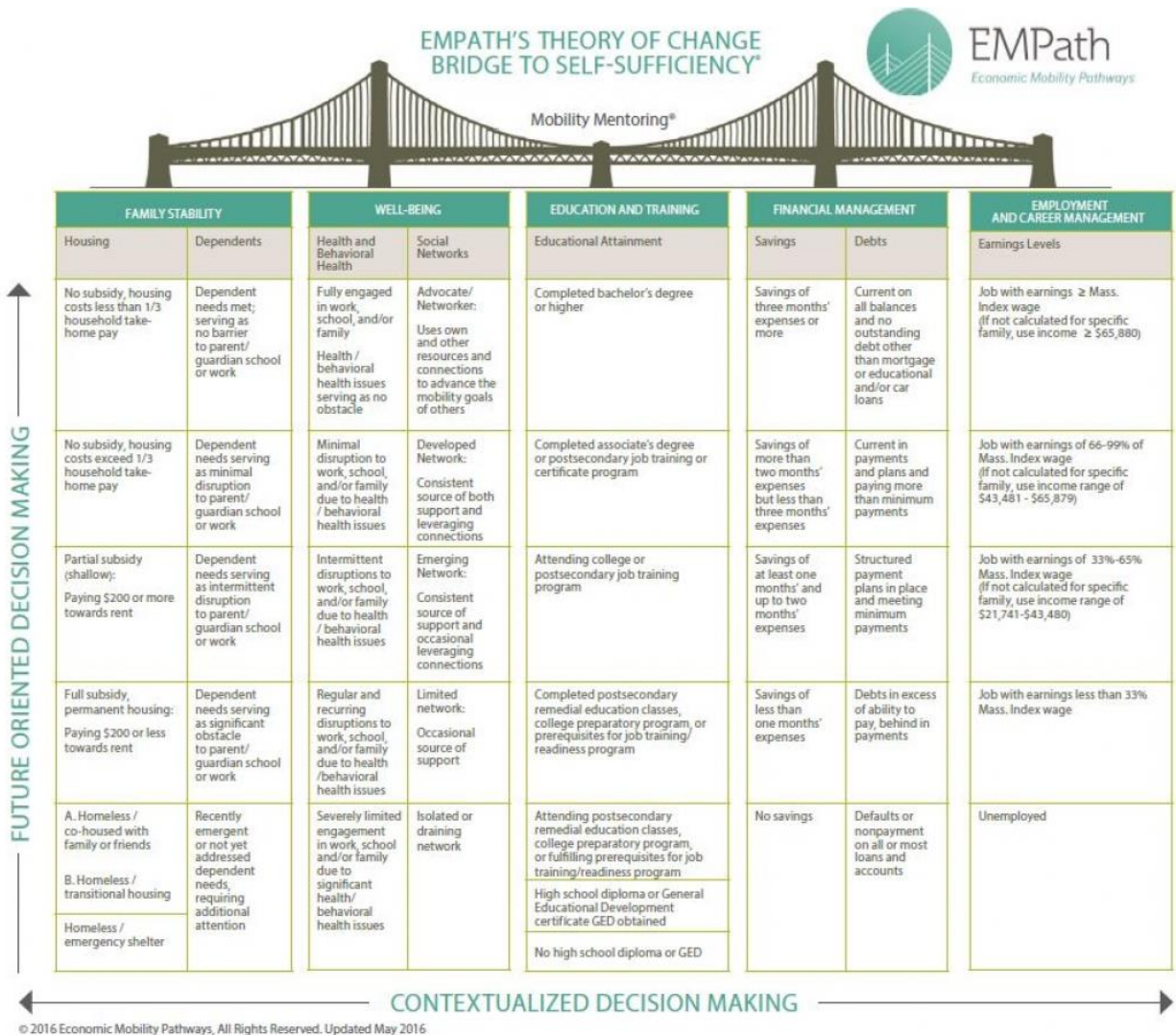
¹⁸ For more information on Economic Growth for All and Newton LEADS 2040 contact Community Engagement Director Stephanie Foner at sfoner@newtonma.gov or find information at www.cityofnewtonma.gov

the same, there are pathways to economic self-sufficiency. Below are potential beginning steps to economic mobility:

1. Develop a self-sufficiency team of people to support, advise and coach

The journey from financial struggle to economic independence is challenging. A successful journey is much more likely if you develop a “self-sufficiency team.” While this group is different for each individual or family, many of the areas that you might benefit from having expert support people to guide you are common.

Consider the Bridge to Self-Sufficiency™ (EMPath www.empathways.org).



This tool depicts the journey to self-sufficiency as a bridge supported by five key pillars. These pillars are:

- Family Stability (encompassing child care and housing needs)
- Well-being (encompassing physical and mental health for all family members)
- Education and Training
- Financial Management
- Career and Employment Management

Each of these pillars needs to be addressed in order to successfully attain and maintain self-sufficiency. Importantly, this is not done by addressing each area one at a time but rather by considering them simultaneously. Part of mapping out of your successful journey requires thinking about how, for example, you plan on ensuring that your current housing is stable, how you plan to provide consistent, quality child care, and how you will attend an education program that will result in a credential directly tied to a well-paying job in high demand. If that was a straightforward formula that didn't benefit from outside coaching and support, you would have likely already achieved some or all of these goals. That's why you should consider getting a self-sufficiency team on your side.

There are different ways to build this team. One way is to identify the areas that you especially need support in and reach out for guidance in those individual areas. The resource list at the end of this brief (which is not exhaustive but merely a local starting place) offers some potential providers to begin your team building.

Another approach is to work with a general economic mobility mentor to help map out the whole process. EMPATH, a Boston-based nonprofit with a commitment to Newton residents offers comprehensive services ranging from a drop-in Mobility Mentoring Center in Boston for individual appointments, a one year program for Newton residents beginning the process of building self-sufficiency, and a five year program (**Career Family Opportunity**) designed to move low income families all the way to economic independence.

Another nonprofit, **The Jeremiah Program**, is a national program focused on supporting families led by single mothers living in poverty to become stable, prosperous families. The Jeremiah program has a campus in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood.

Yet another option is the **Family Independence Initiative (FII)**, a national program with a headquarters in Jamaica Plain. For more information on these organizations, check out their websites here:

EMPATH: <https://www.empathways.org/>

Family Independence Initiative (FII): <http://www.fii.org/>

The Jeremiah Program: <https://jeremiahprogram.org/>

A self-sufficiency team should be made up of the people who help you map your way to self-sufficiency and stay on track for the long-term. While each journey is individual, there are some common landmarks along the way. These are outlined briefly in the next steps.

2. Identify your living wage requirements

How much do you really need to earn in order to make ends meet living in Newton? The answer to that question is a key step in a journey to self-sufficiency. Using the Newton-specific tables shown previously, identify how much you need to earn in order to live in Newton. For example, if you are a single parent raising two children, you will need to earn at least \$72,874 to make ends meet in Newton.

3. Research careers that are both in high demand (have openings in Massachusetts) and that meet your self-sufficiency wage requirements after you have been working in them for a few years.

There are a number of different ways to go about this research. Later in this document we will list a number of different career development organizations available because you don't have to go on this journey alone (and many journeys are more successful with a mentor or a coach supporting you).

Some immediate resources to match careers in demand that pay a living wage include:

O*NET OnLine (a premier website for occupational information):

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

Crittenton Women's Union (now known as EMPATH) 2013 Hot Jobs Report:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/empath-website/pdf/Research-HotJobs2013-0313.pdf>

Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center:

<http://etrcc.com/>



4. Identify cost-effective, quality education or training programs

Once you have determined the career you want, you need to get the appropriate training and the credentials. This is a critical decision and one that should never be taken lightly. Sorting through options can be daunting and often getting help from your self-sufficiency team can be vital for making the right decision. A few key things to consider are:

- Is it a for-profit or a nonprofit educational center? It is almost always more economically advisable to go with a nonprofit both for affordability but often also in terms of the value of the credential you will receive.
- What are the graduation rates overall and in your program?
- Do they provide help with career placement?
- Public universities or community colleges traditionally offer the best value for the education provided.
- Seek as much scholarship and grant money as you can. This is money that you don't have to pay back. Consider work study and other work options as ways to limit the amount of loans you require.
- Make sure your ability to complete your program is feasible. Consider logistics like child care, transportation, and work schedules to the best of your ability.

5. Develop an action plan for managing personal and family needs while pursuing self-sufficiency

This is about putting on paper all the elements of your long-term plan and ensuring that you factor in both the concrete steps you need to take that directly relate to working toward your career (education, resume building, soft skills) but also addressing those responsibilities that you need to address in order to keep moving forward. For example:

- stable, consistent child care and/or care of elderly parents
- mental health services that help you be successful
- physical health services that help you be successful
- housing that is adequate and stable
- reducing your debt
- building/repairing your credit rating
- building positive social networks

Some of these will be relevant to you and others won't be, and most likely you have factors to consider that are not listed here. The important thing is not that you have all these perfectly figured out before you get started, but rather that you have those areas identified and are actively working on strategies to address them positively to increase your likelihood of overall success.

6. Build your resume and develop “soft” skills

On your journey, you want to capitalize on every opportunity to build your resume. This has to be an ongoing process – it cannot be something that you wait until you have graduated from an education program to start thinking about. Seek opportunities to volunteer, participate in internships, practicums, job shadow, and be sure to document all of these on your resume. Take courses that help you develop interviewing skills; learn techniques for learning about jobs through informational interviewing and networking rather than relying on traditional job advertisements. Seek professionals and friends who can review your resume and cover letters to make sure they provide the best written representation of your skills possible.

7. Obtain required credential for career goal

The right education is often the key for getting in the door for the career you have identified. Use your action plan and most of all your self-sufficiency team to help you see yourself all the way to a successful graduation.

8. Job search in career field

Job searches are most successful when they have been progressive throughout your journey rather than left to the end. That means that all along the way you are gathering professional contacts in your field of interest through informational interviews, internships, and volunteering. You have been researching specific businesses you are interested in working for and looking for inroads to them. You have identified the best job search locations in your specific field and are familiar with how they work and have been tracking openings. You have sought resume and cover letter advice from people in the field so you can be sure that the skills they are most interested in are ones you have both been cultivating and that you are highlighting in your materials.

9. Economic Self-Sufficiency

Economic self-sufficiency is less of a moment of arrival than a recognition that you have been successfully moving forward and will continue to do so. Obtaining the degree or training and landing the job that pays a sustaining wage are critical landmarks, but they are not the final destination. Instead, these landmarks are a positive platform from which to continue to plan ahead toward a positive future and enjoy the life you have built. There will be more work to do, perhaps around reaching a goal of homeownership or reaching towards those higher rungs of the career ladder in your chosen field. But never forget to celebrate all your successes along the way. It’s not a simple journey, but one well worth taking.



Section III: Self-Sufficiency Resources

Counseling and Consumer Assistance

American Consumer Credit Counseling

(800) 769-3571 (National)

(617) 559-5700 (Newton)

www.consumercredit.com

130 Rumford Ave Ste. 202

Auburndale 02466

Provides confidential credit counseling, bankruptcy counseling, housing counseling, and a debt management plan to help people regain control of their finances.

Community Development Program (Planning & Development Department)

(617) 796-1120

<http://www.newtonma.gov/cdbg>

Planning and Development Department

Newton City Hall, Lower Level, Room B-10

Newton 02459

The Community Development Program uses an annual allocation of approximately \$3 million in federal Community Development Block Grant, HOME Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant Funds to assist Newton's low and moderate income residents. Projects include Human Services, Accessibility Improvements, Neighborhood Improvements, and Affordable Housing Development. Projects and programs are reviewed by staff with input from citizen advisors.

National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC)

(800) 388-2227

www.nfcc.org

2000 M Street NW Ste. 505

Washington, DC 20036

As the nation's largest financial counseling organization, the NFCC Member Agency Network includes more than 600 community-based offices located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. NFCC Member Agencies provide financial counseling and education to millions of consumers each year in person, over the phone, or online.

Emergency Assistance

City of Newton Social Services Case Management

Health and Human Services

Make an appointment at 617-796-1660 or 617-796-1420

Case managers are available to provide information, referral, and outreach services to all residents of the City of Newton. Case managers provide residents with information on such things as; fuel assistance, housing, mental health, supports, family needs, food insecurity, workforce development, benefits eligibility and application support. Case managers connect residents with community programs and resources to enhance quality of life in Newton, with the ultimate goal of helping those in need work towards financial security and self-sufficiency.

ABCD Fuel Assistance Program

Department of Health & Human Services

(617) 796-1420

www.newtonma.gov

Newton City Hall

Provides assistance in paying heating bills during the winter to income eligible homeowners and renters; starts in November. Call for an appointment.

Food Source Hotline

1-800-645-8333

145 Border Street

East Boston

Hotline for emergency food resources and food stamp information.

Newton Food Pantries

Access requires pre-approval. Please contact one of the following if you are in need of food assistance:

- **Arabic Baptist Church Boston Food Pantry and Clothing, Newton Corner**
(617) 723-9766 or (508) 561-4319
www.arabicbaptist.org
Email: samyibra@gmail.com; sinoteibra@cs.com
187 Church Street
Newton 02458
Food and clothing distributed the second and fourth Friday of each month 11am-1pm.
- **Centre Street Food Pantry, Newton Center**
(617) 340-9554

www.centrestfoodpantry.org

Email: info@centrestfoodpantry.org

11 Homer Street

Newton Center 02459

Tuesdays from 4-7pm and the first Saturday of each month from 11am-1pm.

- **Newton Food Pantry**

(617) 527-2394

www.newtonfoodpantry.org

Email: newtonfoodpantry@gmail.com

Newton City Hall (Basement)

1000 Commonwealth Avenue

Newton 02459

Wednesdays 1:30-5:00pm and the third Saturday of each month 11am-noon.

Horace Cousens Industrial Fund

(617) 796-1324

http://www.newtonma.gov/residents/cousens_fund.asp

The Horace Cousens Industrial Fund is a charitable trust which gives financial help to Newton residents who are faced with a temporary but severe financial problem. Grants are for one-time specific needs and not for on-going expenses. An applicant must complete charitable trust forms from the organization and return them to the Director of the Cousens Fund at the above address. After the form is received, the director will call the applicant for an interview. The Trustees of the Fund make the decision to approve or not to approve the request at their monthly meeting.

MA Department of Transitional Assistance

Formerly Massachusetts Department of Welfare

1-877-382-2363

www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dta

600 Washington Street #4

Boston 02111

Provides medical assistance, Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamps, and Emergency Assistance, Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled, and Children; assists with housing searches.

MA Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program

1-800-942-1007

www.mass.gov/wic

250 Washington Street

Boston 02108

Provides nutrition and health education, healthy food and other services free of charge to families who qualify.

The Second Step

(617) 965-3999

www.thesecondstep.org

PO Box 600213

Newton 02460

The Second Step partners with survivors of domestic violence to foster safety, stability, and well-being. The comprehensive residential and community-based programs build on the individual strengths, needs and values of the families we serve. In ongoing collaboration with the community, The Second Step lays the foundation for a future free from abuse and full of possibility. Services include safety planning, advocacy, long-term transitional housing, children's programs and legal case management.

Springwell

(617) 926-4100

www.springwell.com

307 Waverley Oaks Road, Suite 205

Waltham, MA 02452

Springwell offers CareConnections to public and private housing sites in Newton that want to provide residents with easy access to long-term care services and supports. Springwell provides a dedicated Care Coordinator, and can offer the following services to all residents of the site: needs assessments, 24-hour on-site staff available for urgent responses, social activities, coordination of in-home services from government subsidized programs or from private agencies, and a reduced rate for in-home services.

Employment and Job Training

Employment and Training Resources/One Stop Career Center

ETR Framingham

(508) 766-5700

1671 Worcester Road

Framingham, MA 01701

ETR Norwood

(781) 769-4120

275 Prospect Street

PO Box 740

Norwood, MA 02062

Employment & Training Resources is the local One-Stop Career Center for the Metro South/West region of Massachusetts. Chartered by Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce, Inc., ETR is a joint venture of the Metro South/West Employment & Training Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Locations include full-

service career center offices in Framingham and Norwood, and a limited-service satellite office in Newton.

EMPath's Bridge to Career Family Opportunity

(617) 259-2900

www.empathways.org

1 Washington Mall

Boston, MA 02108

EMPath – Economic Mobility Pathways transforms low income people's lives through innovative social service programs, applied research, and effective advocacy so they and their families can attain economic independence.

Family Independence Initiative (FII)

(617) 477-4175

www.fii.org

PO Box 301764

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Family Independence Initiative (FII) is a national nonprofit which leverages the power of information to illuminate and accelerate the initiative low-income families take to improve their lives. FII partners with low-income families as the endeavor to get ahead and succeed in their lives, setting their own direction.

Jeremiah Program

(617) 413-9779

<https://jeremiahprogram.org/>

130 Warren Street

Roxbury, MA 02119

Jeremiah Program offers one of the nation's most successful strategies for transforming families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time. Jeremiah prepares determined single mothers to excel in the workforce, readies their children to succeed in school, and reduces generational dependence on public assistance. Jeremiah's proven, holistic approach begins with establishing a supportive community for determined single mothers to pursue a career-track college education. Through a combination of quality early childhood education, a safe and affordable place to live, and empowerment and life skills training, families find stability and a path out of poverty.

Newton Free Library

(617) 796-1360

www.newtonfreelibrary.net

330 Homer Street

Newton, MA 02459

The Newton Free Library maintains information services for those searching for employment or may be in between jobs, with access to resources under tabs relevant to coping with

joblessness and finding resources when unemployed, career exploration, aiding in the job search, and job posting boards with helpful tips and advice for job seekers. Websites featured on the Newton Free Library are www.job-hunt.org, www.myjobhelper.com, and www.rileyguide.com.

Newton Public Schools

(617) 559-6000

www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/107

100 Walnut Street

Newton, MA 02460

The Career/Vocational Technical Education (CTE) program offers students enrolled in Newton Public Schools opportunities to explore and develop vocational and technical competency skills in a variety of career & vocational technical fields. Students will have the opportunity to explore career options and to develop an individual Career Plan designed to help them learn how to make informed choices now and for their future. Through comprehensive sequencing of technical and academic courses, students develop a solid foundation of knowledge and skills essential for a smooth transition into post-secondary education and the world of work. Upon graduation, students are prepared and ready to pursue post-secondary education in two, or four-year colleges, vocational technical training institutes, apprenticeships, and enter the workplace.

Newton-Wellesley Hospital

(617) 243-6768

www.nwh.org/your-community-hospital/human-resources/

2014 Washington Street

Newton, MA 02462

Newton-Wellesley Hospital offers career development pathways for its employees, ranging from citizenship and English language learner classes, patient care assistant (PCA) training, new graduate registered nurse training, their Advancing Careers through Education (ACE) program which functions as a college prep program for employees, tuition reimbursement for employees pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees, and cooperation with area nonprofits like the Price Center, Jewish Vocational Services, Charles River Arc, and Perkins School for the Blind to link persons with disabilities with job training for placement in the organization.

The Price Center

(617) 244-0065

www.thepricecenter.org

27 Christina Street

Newton, MA 02461

The Price Center's Employment Services program offers a comprehensive range of pre-employment, job training and job placement options for adult job-seekers with diverse abilities

and professional goals. Employment Services staff conducts individualized evaluation and skills assessments for each client. Training and job coaching programs help clients learn and reinforce the communication and social skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. Our employment placement staff matches individuals with real jobs that suit their skills and interests, and provides ongoing support services including career planning, skill training, and professional development.

The Charles River Center

(781) 972-1000

<http://www.charlesrivercenter.org/>

59 East Militia Heights Drive
Needham, MA 02492

For adults over 22, the Charles River Center provides job development based on the interests and needs of individuals. Professional counselors use a variety of models to evaluate skills and desires to help each person obtain meaningful, paid employment. Once evaluated, a job counselor provides one-to-one job coaching and training to make sure the individual is prepared and can comfortably and successfully perform the job independently. After placement, our skilled job counselors provide ongoing support to make sure each person progresses and can reach their full potential. All programs include social skills development, educational groups, health and wellness education, individualized goal development, community volunteerism, and positive behavioral support.

Housing and Community Development

Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization, Inc. (CAN-DO)

617-964-3527

<http://www.newtoncando.org/>

1075 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02465

CAN-DO, Inc. is a community-based non-profit developer of affordable housing for individuals and families with low and moderate incomes. Founded in 1994, CAN-DO has developed and currently manages a number of affordable housing units, which serve a diverse population.

Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders (H.O.M.E.)

1-800-583-5337

87 Hale Street
Lowell 01851

Provides comprehensive financial counseling to income-eligible elder homeowners to enable them to make informed decisions in order to remain independent and self-sufficient in their homes.

HUD Low Rent Housing Search

<http://www.hud.gov/apps/section8/index.cfm>

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gives funds directly to apartment owners, who lower the rents they charge low-income tenants. You can find low-rent apartments for senior citizens and people with disabilities, as well as for families and individuals in communities across the country – including Newton – at the above website.

Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly (JCHE)

(617) 912- 8400

www.jche.org

30 Wallingford Road

Brighton, MA 02135

JCHE provides safe and affordable independent housing where older adults of all backgrounds can age in community. Part of the JCHE's housing portfolio is Golda Meir House and Coleman House, both located in Newton.

Lasell Village

(617) 663-7000

www.lasellvillage.org

120 Seminary Ave

Auburndale 02466

A unique living and learning continuing care retirement community situated on the campus of Lasell College. Blends the elements of lifelong learning, retirement living and supportive services with the option of short-term rehabilitation and long-term care if and when needed.

MassAccess Housing Registry

(617) 742-0820

www.massaccesshousingregistry.org

18 Tremont Street, Suite 401

Boston, MA 02108

The MassAccess Housing Registry helps people find affordable rental and homeownership opportunities in Massachusetts. A key feature of the Registry is to highlight homes for people with disabilities who need accessible or barrier-free housing.

Newton Community Development Foundation (NCDF)

(617) 244-4035

<https://www.ncdfinc.org>

425 Watertown Street, Suite 205

Newton, MA 02458

Newton Community Development Foundation provides both affordable and market-rate rental opportunities in Newton, MA. NCDF's housing communities provide well managed homes to low and moderate-income families, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. NCDF is a community-based non-profit funded through rental income, private funding and government subsidies. Its mission is to foster economic and cultural diversity in the City of Newton through the development and management of affordable housing.

Newton Housing Authority

(617) 552-5501

www.newtonhousing.org

82 Lincoln Street

Newton Highlands 02461

The Newton Housing Authority has a 50 year tradition of providing a high standard of affordable housing to its diverse population of more than 1,300 residents: the largest provider of affordable housing in the City of Newton. The Newton Housing Authority owns and manages state and federally-funded housing programs for families, elders, and individuals with disabilities.

Newton Housing Rehabilitation Program

(Planning & Development Department)

(617) 796-1120

<http://www.newtonma.gov/rehab>

Newton City Hall, Lower Level, Room B-10

Newton 02459

Administered by the Newton Community Development Program, the program enables income-eligible homeowners and tenants to live in safe and sanitary housing; offers financial assistance in the form of rehabilitation, including weatherization, de-leading and asbestos removal, and accessibility.

Pierce House

(Meredith Management)

(617) 965-2200

info@meredithmanagement.com

88 Chestnut Street

West Newton 02465

Provides subsidized housing to elderly or disabled residents who meet eligibility guidelines.

Scandinavian Living Center

(617) 527-6566

www.slcenter.org

206 Waltham Street

West Newton 02465

A unique nonprofit assisted living community whose mission is to provide affordable housing and assistance to elders and to support cultural enrichment and community connections. It welcomes all nationalities.

Transportation

MBTA Transportation

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority provides several transportation options for residents of Newton:

- **MBTA Rail, Bus, and Trolley Service**

(617) 222-3200

1-800-392-6100

www.mbta.com

Schedules are available in the lobby of Newton City Hall.

- **The Ride**

(617) 222-5123

The T's Paratransit Program provides door-to-door transportation to eligible people who cannot use general public transportation all or some of the time, because of a physical, cognitive, or mental disability.

- **Senior Services Transportation**

Offers rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, houses of worship, and the Newton Senior Center.

Information

(617) 796-1660

The Ride

(617) 222-5123

Senior MBTA Pass

(617) 222-3200

Busy Bee Medical Transportation

1-800-427-0230

Medical Escort Service (Springwell)

(617) 926-4100 ext. 502

Senior Parking Stickers

Newton Senior Center

345 Walnut Street

Newtonville 02460

(617) 796-1660

Available to Newton residents 65 years or older for municipal parking lots. \$6.00 for a two year cycle, current car registration, copy of personal lease agreement if car is leased, and MA driving license required. Must apply in person.

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For more information about this work please contact Deborah Youngblood, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, City of Newton: dyoungblood@newtonma.gov

Website: <http://www.newtonma.gov/economicmobility>

ⁱ The cities and towns of Middlesex County include Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ashland, Ayer, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable, Everett, Framingham, Groton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Malden, Marlborough, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Natick, Newton, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Sherborn, Shirley, Somerville, Stoneham, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Westford, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn.

ⁱⁱThis endnote describes the MIT methodology and the difference in results when recalculating for Newton-specific costs, as offered by Dr. Geoffrey Sanzenbacher in a July 2016 memo. The MIT Living Wage Calculator provides food, transportation, and other expenses at the regional level – the expenses for Middlesex County are the same as every other county in the Northeast Census Region. Newton-specific adjustments resulted in an increase in food expenses relative to the MIT calculator of 2 percent. Newton-specific adjustments resulted in decreases in transportation expenses by 6 percent and other expenses by 2 percent. The MIT Living Wage Calculator provides child care expenses at the state level – the expenses for Middlesex County are the same as for every other county in Massachusetts. Newton-specific adjustments resulted in an increase in child care expenses relative to the MIT calculator of 8 percent. The MIT Living Wage Calculator provides Housing Cost Data at the county level. However, Newton has higher rents, home prices (and thus mortgage prices), and ownership rates than the rest of Middlesex County. Newton-specific adjustments resulted in 39 percent higher housing expenses in Newton than the rest of the county.

ⁱⁱⁱ Self-Sufficiency Lifespan Benchmarks

- **Family Formation**
 - Born at a normal birth weight to a non-poor, non-single mother aged at least 20
- **Early Childhood**
 - Acceptable pre-reading and math skills
 - Behavior generally school appropriate
- **Middle Childhood**
 - Basic reading and math skills
 - Social-emotional skills
- **Adolescence**
 - Graduates from high school with a GPA >2.5
 - No criminal convictions, not a parent
- **Transition to Adulthood**
 - Lives independently
 - Receives a college degree or has family income >250% of the poverty level
- **Adulthood**

-
- Reaches middle class (family income at least 300% of the poverty level)
 - **Older Adults**
 - Assets to ensure retirement income is at least 70% of pre-retirement income
 - Social networks/community engagement effectively supporting well-being
 - **Innovation Economy**
 - Business friendly climate for entrepreneurs
 - Regional partnerships