

## **Board on Homelessness Fact Sheet**

The Quincy/Weymouth Continuum of Care (QWC) represents local government, businesses, faith organizations, formerly homeless persons and service providers who work together to coordinate all efforts taking place within the continuum to address the issues of homelessness. Great care is taken to insure that the planning process is in step with state and local plans to end chronic homelessness. Efforts of the QWC are coordinated with the City of Quincy's consolidated plan and also with other continuums in the State through participation in the Mass Alliance of Homeless Shelters to prevent overlapping or duplicative efforts by the continuum.

The members of the QWC meet monthly to discuss issues that the Quincy/Weymouth Board on Homelessness members deem critical to ending homelessness. The purpose of these meetings is to develop and implement specific action steps that address the issues of homelessness in the community and to respond with services as needed. The Board identifies gaps in services based on the Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis Chart and through personal interviews with shelter guests and street homeless persons, discusses innovative solutions combining housing and services that respond to those gaps, identifies areas for collaboration among housing providers and supportive service providers, and develops priorities for funding requests.

Many members of the Board volunteer to serve on subcommittees that address specific homelessness issues such as housing, family homelessness and healthcare. Subcommittee members collaborate with each other in an effort to create new programs focused on specific client needs, such as housing development, family homelessness, medical services, and veterans' housing. Quincy and Weymouth's Planning and Community Development staff members provide technical assistance for member organizations in need of assistance in overcoming specific obstacles and aid members in developing programs. They also provide insight on affordable housing opportunities and on acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings.

Since 1996, the Quincy/Weymouth Continuum of Care, through the Quincy Department of Planning and Community Development has successfully secured \$12,605,086 in McKinney-Vento funding to be used for programs that serve the homeless population in the Quincy/ Weymouth area.

The Continuum of Care currently administers 8 programs under the Federal Supportive Housing Program, which maintains 50 units for homeless individuals and 42 units for homeless families. The Continuum of Care also administers the Federal Shelter Plus Care program, which maintains 99 units for homeless individuals and families.