

At Risk and Prevention

In early 2010, Hearth proposed to a private source to fund our efforts to provide Outreach to older adults that are at imminent risk of homelessness. This proposal was accepted and for the first time, Hearth is able to provide a dedicated staff person in Outreach to serve this critical population.

Prior to this, our major funding sources limited our Outreach efforts to serve only those who met the current definition of homelessness and were staying in shelter or on the street. Homelessness is a growing issue amongst Boston's older adults as the cost of living far exceeds their typical income and independence is difficult to hold on to as we age.

The At Risk Outreach case manager will have a role similar to our other case managers on the team; however their work will begin at the stage of prevention vs. homelessness. The At Risk case manager will help shape this new role within the team and seek to establish relationships with referral sources such as day shelters, medical providers, elder services, and VNA agencies. The At Risk worker will identify key actions and supports needed to prevent homelessness and develop an individualized plan for each client. The At Risk worker will target resources that can assist the client and support housing retention including:

- Tenant counseling
- Landlord mediation
- Money management
- Eviction prevention
- Relocation planning

These efforts will front load the already existing efforts of a Hearth Outreach worker that includes health case management, housing advocacy, and stabilization services.

Clients who are eligible for Hearth At Risk services are individuals that are over 50 years old, in the Boston area, and are facing homelessness. These individuals will not meet the current definition of homelessness and will likely be in one or more of the following situations:

- "Doubled-up" in housing that cannot accommodate them
- Leaving institutions with no housing in place
- Tenants facing eviction
- Individuals facing foreclosure
- Low income individuals in financial crisis

For more information around our new program please contact:

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