

The Massachusetts Statewide Steering Committee on Hoarding (SSCH) was established after a major conference sponsored by MassHousing in December 2007. Recognizing the need and value of professionals from multiple disciplines including housing, health, public safety, code enforcement, human services, academia and others to learn about hoarding and work together towards solutions, increased education and better coordination required a more organized approach. A second Conference held in April 2014 reenergized efforts to continue and expand upon this work in Massachusetts into the future.

Massachusetts Statewide Steering Committee on Hoarding (SSCH) FY 2019-20 Goals

- ❑ Educate and engage state and local officials and stakeholders to the hoarding problem and possible solutions. This includes collecting and analyzing hoarding data, including cost data.
- ❑ Identify what is missing at the statewide level, and work collaboratively to address these statewide issues/gaps. This includes a longer range goal of hoarding response teams.
- ❑ Identify what is working and what is missing at the local levels, and support the development and work of local Hoarding Task Forces in MA. This includes goals of securing long term funding, including state line-item funding and health care sources.
- ❑ Support and provide training opportunities and disseminate information and resources via the website, and the hoarding intervention training institute.

Partial list of completed goals and initiatives since 2007 include:

- The development and support of ongoing trainings and conferences for front line housing, social services and other staff: over 100 trainings and 5,600 participants.
- Led by the BU School of Social Work, the development and implementation of HOMES®, an interdisciplinary Risk Assessment that can be used by all parties to help assess and plan.
- The establishment and updating of a Massachusetts focused Hoarding website at www.masshousing.com/hoarding including community events, training opportunities, information, tools and resources.
- The publication of a Hoarding Resources Directory and a Best Practices Guide.
- A pilot program funding for therapeutic in home sorting and discarding services to nineteen households in FY12-13 and another program funding hoarding assistance to thirty-four MassHousing sites through the Tenancy Preservation Program in FY15-19.
- The provision of technical assistance to emerging regional and local Hoarding Task Forces. (Seven existed in 2007; over twenty in 2019)
- Sixty-one grants to twenty-one MA Local Hoarding Task Forces in FY15-FY19 that have sponsored hundreds of professional and peer led support groups, community events and trainings, direct case interventions/services and more.
- Completion of the Hoarding Survey and Summary Report.
- Led by MBHP, the Hoarding Intervention Training Institute established and operational.