



Financial Assistance Summary

Town of Easton
136 Elm Street
Easton, MA 02356

www.easton.ma.us

Outreach Coordinator: (508) 230-0692

The Town of Easton, the Commonwealth and other agencies offer a variety of programs to help reduce taxes and other expenses for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, income-qualified households and others. We encourage residents to make use of these programs and to refer family, friends and neighbors who may be eligible.

(Updated December 2018)

Brockton Area Multi-Services Incorporated (BAMSI) has a confidential helpline for emergency housing and affordable housing applications; They offer information and support that connects individuals and families to available community resources such as heating fuel assistance, food and clothing assistance, affordable health services, mental health counseling, family services, etc. Help Line: 1-866-621-4747. Brockton offices can be reached at (508) 580-8700.

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance offers SNAP Food Assistance, Job Assistance, Cash Assistance, Emergency Shelter, and Domestic Violence assistance. Brockton office can be reached at (508) 895-7000.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. (SCCLS) is a non-profit corporation which provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of our communities in the areas of housing law, family law, government benefits including social security disability, elder law, education law, and consumer law. To apply for legal services, please call the intake line at (800) 244-9023 (Mon-Thu 9am-1:30pm).

Veterans Services: The Veterans' Service Officer provides referrals and assistance to Easton veterans and their dependents for a wide range of programs and services. Call Veterans Services at (508) 230-0690 press 3 or <http://www.easton.ma.us/departments/veterans/service/index.php> for more info.

Housing and Home Heating Programs

MassHousing: The leading provider of affordable housing resources for residents with moderate incomes. Programs include 5% interest rate loans, term of 5 to 15 years, from \$7,500 to \$50,000, for income-eligible applicants, available through participating lending banks. Also resources for finding affordable and/or accessible rentals. Contact them at (800) 822-1154.

HomeCorps: The Attorney General's program for help with foreclosure prevention and loan modification (617) 573-5333.

Easton Housing Authority: (an independent organization at Parker Terrace that is not part of Town government) owns and operates several affordable rental housing developments including Section 8. Some units are for seniors, families, and handicapped accessible. There is a waiting list for units. Call (508) 238-4747 for more information.

Shelter: Mainspring House at 54 North Main Street in Brockton, (508) 587-5441.

Self Help Inc.: (fuel assistance) call the Outreach Coordinator for an appointment or call Self Help at (508) 588-5440.

Citizens Energy Heat Assist: (877) 563-4645.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund: the Salvation Army provides fuel assistance; call the Outreach Coordinator to schedule an appointment.

USDA: "Section 504 Home Repair program" – loans to very-low-income homeowners up to

\$20,000. Grants up to \$7,500 for low-income seniors. Call (508) 295-5151.

First Time Homebuyers Assistance: The Easton Affordable Housing Trust accepts applications from income-qualified individuals for grants to help purchase a home in Easton. Call (508) 230-0645 for more information.

Easton Septic Betterment Program: This program is managed by the Board of Health and provides low-interest loans to homeowners with failed septic systems. Call (508) 230-0620 to speak to the Betterment Coordinator.

Employment

Ames Free Library, 53 Main Street: Free computer & scanner use; printed copies. Free computer tutoring can be provided with appointment in general skills or specific to those seeking employment. Website links to online newspapers www.amesfreelibrary.org (508) 238-2000.

Career Works: 34 School St. Brockton Area (DUA) Division of Unemployment Assistance Walk-In Center (508) 513-3400 Teleclaim Center: 1-877-626-6800.

Work Permits: Applications for 14- thru 17-year-olds can be obtained at the Easton [School Superintendent's website](#) or by calling the School Administration at (508) 230-3200 (Select 2 on menu option).

Food, Clothing and Family

Easton Food Pantry: provides food for Easton residents. Food and donations may be dropped off at Town Hall, 136 Elm St. in the front lobby. Call (508) 230-0663 Hours of Operation: Mondays from 12:00-5:00pm (www.eastonfoodpantry.com).

OCES Elder Nutrition Program: provides a nutritious noontime meal at the Parker Terr. Community Center. Meals can be delivered for housebound seniors. \$2.50 requested donation. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 230-0690 or OCES at (508) 584-1561.

SNAP: (Federal Food Stamp program) Contact the state Dept. of Transitional Assistance (508) 895-7000.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food, breastfeeding support and other services free of charge to Massachusetts families who qualify. Call Brockton office (508) 588-8241.

Salvation Army Vouchers: for food, clothing and household goods. Call Council on Aging (508) 230-0690 and speak with the Outreach Coordinator.

St. Vincent DePaul: provides help with food, fuel, utility payments. Call (508) 238-2235 (S. Easton) or (508) 238-3232 (N. Easton).

My Brother's Keeper: delivers furniture and food to people in need. Call the Help Line (508) 238-4416.

H.U.G.S II: a non-profit Easton based organization & provides assistance to domestic violence victims and their families. Call (508) 230 3309 confidential line or visit www.eastonhugs.org.

School Fee Exemptions: fees for school-related services such as lunch, sports, art participation may be waived or reduced. To learn more, call School Administration at (508) 230-3200 x213.

Easton Recreation: offers financial assistance to residents. Call (508) 238-3084. **Camp Wonderful Vouchers:** The Salvation Army provides vouchers for summer programs for youth and seniors. For more information: (508) 230-0690, press 2.

Old Colony YMCA Easton Branch: Before and after School Programs: Ask for a Financial Assistance form. The YMCA also offers a reduced fee structure for membership (determined by household income). Call (508) 238-9758.

Self Help, Inc.: providing services to Easton residents in areas of health services, childcare, education, employment and financial stability (508) 588-0447. Information on Head Start (508) 587-1716.

United Way of Greater Plymouth County: 934 West Chestnut Street, Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 583-6306; <http://www.uwgpc.org/> Helpline: (508)-584-4357.

Health

MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach: eliminates or reduces prescription drug costs through this state program. Call (866) 633-1617.

Serving the Health Needs of Elders (SHINE): provides insurance advice for elders and Medicare recipients. Contact the Council On Aging at (508) 230-0690.

MassHealth: pays for health care for certain low and medium income people living in Massachusetts. MassHealth offers health-care benefits directly or by paying part or all of your health-insurance premiums. Call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648) to file a Medical Benefit Request (MBR).

Mass Health Enrollment Center (Taunton): (508) 828-4600.

Commonwealth Care Health Insurance Program: a new program for uninsured adults that operates through the Connector Authority. Visit the Connector's Web site at www.mass.gov/connector.

Public Health Nurse: the town provides Nursing services including screening and immunization clinics. Call the BOH at (508) 230-0620.

Prescription Advantage: a state program to reduce prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees. Call the Council on Aging SHINE program at (508) 230-0690 or (800) AGE INFO (800-243-4636).

Tax Assistance

Property Tax Circuit Breaker: for qualifying seniors the Property Tax Circuit Breaker may reduce your state income taxes by up to \$1,000 or give you a rebate. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 230-0690.

Tax work-off programs: qualifying homeowners age 60+ and veterans (of any age) may earn a property tax discount for working 125 hours in a Town office, doing rewarding work that helps the community. The rate is the State Minimum wage at the time of work. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 230-0690 and speak with the Outreach Coordinator.

Property Tax Exemptions: Easton offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers to the fullest extent allowed by state law. Requirements vary for different exemptions. Contact the Assessors at (508) 238-0520.

Tax deferral program: qualifying homeowners age 65+ may defer all or part of their property taxes until the property is sold or transferred. The Town then receives deferred taxes plus 3% annual interest. Contact the Assessors at (508) 238-0520.

Tax abatements: residents who believe that their real estate, motor vehicle or personal property was incorrectly assessed may contact the Assessors to request abatement through an appeal process. The appeal period varies based on the particular tax. Call the Assessors at (508) 230-0520.