



LOCAL
IMPLEMENTATION



Implemented on Cape Cod

OVERVIEW

Rental assistance programs provide funding to help renters pay for their rent. Some programs allow property owners to access assistance to help with the maintenance or operations of affordable units. This funding can also be used to bring a property up to code and upgrade unit amenities such as electrical, plumbing, and roofs. Rental assistance programs are often offered by housing authorities, non-profits, municipalities, or the Commonwealth. Rental assistance can be critical in helping some households secure and maintain stable housing, especially in markets with high market rents.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- Not Allowed to Build Multi-family Housing
- Too Expensive to Build New Housing
- Too Expensive to Secure or Maintain Housing
- Hard to Find Year-round Housing

POTENTIAL BENEFITS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Reduces the housing cost burden for renters
- Can help residents maintain stable housing
- Programs must be funded to provide ongoing support for residents in need
- Eligibility criteria limits who can benefit from programs and determining who is eligible to receive assistance is an important consideration
- Depending on the funding sources, there may be restrictions on who is eligible for the rental assistance (e.g., certain funding sources may not allow a program to support households earning more than 80% of the area median income)
- Monitoring and administering the program requires time and resources

RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

Massachusetts Rental Assistance

Programs - This page provides information on the different state and federal rental programs as well as affordable units available for rent and information on emergency financial assistance.

THRIVE program - Administered by the Housing Assistance Corporation, the THRIVE program provides financial assistance and education to workers in certain essential industries to help offset some of the cost of rental housing.

CASE STUDY: EASTHAM HOUSING HELP

With funds from the Town of Eastham Community Preservation Act, Harwich Ecumenical Council for the Homeless administers a Rental Assistance Program to income-qualified households who live or work in Eastham or who have children in the Nauset School District. This program aims to assist households earning at or below 60% of AMI with their rental payments to make housing costs more affordable. Applicants are required to go through a certification process to determine income and other eligibility requirements. Once accepted in the program participants can access up to \$350 monthly, for up to 3 years.

Learn more [here](#).

