January 30, 2014

Join Us for Our Month of Action to End Homelessness!

Featuring a Youth Homelessness Film Screening/Panel Discussion, State House Call-In Day, Advocacy Training, and Legislative Action Day 2014

Dear Kelly,

We hope that you can join the Coalition— in person, virtually, and over the phone— for a series of upcoming events for our Month of Action to End Homelessness. February may be the shortest month of the year, but we plan to make every day count!

No Place Like Home: Film Screening/Panel Discussion on Youth Homelessness on February 5th at the State House

Next week, on Wednesday, February 5th, we are co-sponsoring the State House premiere of a powerful new documentary, "No Place Like Home", which focuses on the lives of youth experiencing homelessness.

We ask you to personally invite your State Representative and State Senator to join us for the screening and panel discussion, which will take place in the House Members Lounge from 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Scheduled speakers include youth from Youth on Fire (YOF) in Cambridge, Ayala Livny from YOF, State Representative Jim O'Day, filmmaker Neil MacInnes-Barker from Innovative Perspectives Collaborative, and Kelly Turley from the Coalition.

Please see the flyer for more details. Limited space also is available for Coalition members and partners to attend. RSVP here. This event will be hosted by Representative Jim O'Day, and co-sponsored by the Coalition, AIDS Action Committee, and Innovative Perspectives Collaborative.

Check out the film’s trailer here, and stay tuned for details on additional upcoming screenings.
Accompany the Youth! February 6th State House Call-In Day to Push for Passage of House Bill 135

One of the Coalition's major goals for 2014 is to win passage of House Bill 135, An Act providing housing and support services to unaccompanied homeless youth (Lead sponsor: Rep. Jim O'Day).

This session, the bill initially was assigned to the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. On August 12, 2013, the Committee reported the bill out favorably, and now it is before the House Committee on Ways and Means. With only 6 months of formal sessions left for this legislative cycle, we need to ramp up our advocacy in support of House Bill 135 and all of those unaccompanied youth and young adults who are in need of housing and services.

To that end, and building upon the momentum we plan to generate at the film screening, we are asking you to take a few minutes on Thursday, February 6th to call your State Representative and State Senator to ask them to actively support the bill and to express their support to legislative leadership. The time to act on House Bill 135 and meet the needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness is now!

A bill fact sheet and additional materials from our "Accompany the Youth!" campaign can be found here.

Legislators can be reached directly through the numbers listed here for Representatives and here for Senators or through the State House switchboard: 617-722-2000.

Check the list on the top of the fact sheet to see if your Representative and/or Senator is a sponsor of the bill. If so, please thank her/him and encourage further commitment and action on behalf of unaccompanied youth. If not, let your legislators know it is not too late to use their power to help pass this critical bill.

Once you make your calls, please email us to share any feedback from your legislators.

Pre-Legislative Action Day Training Call on February 13th

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless will be offering a training via conference call to help you become better prepared to participate in our upcoming Legislative Action Day 2014.

Join with advocates, providers, and concerned citizens from across the State to strengthen the movement to prevent and end homelessness!

Conference Call Details:

Thursday, February 13, 2014
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To participate, please:
Call: 712-432-0927
Then enter access code: 701196#

Register here for the training call, so that we can send you the training materials.

Legislative Action Day 2014 at the State House on February 27th

To advocate with us to protect and promote investment in key housing and homelessness programs, follow this link to learn more about our upcoming Legislative Action Day at the State House on Thursday, February 27th. Register today to join us!

Speakers for Legislative Action Day will include:

- State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing
- Keynote Speaker Eric Belsky, Joint Centers for Housing Studies of Harvard University
- Dr. Megan Sandel, Children's HealthWatch and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
- Families, adults, and youth who are experiencing homelessness
- Coalition staff

Legislative Action Day is almost here!
For more details about any of these events and campaigns, please reach out to the Coalition: Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org/781-595-7570 x17 or Exa Mendez at exa@mahomeless.org/781-595-7570 x16.

mchalert
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

Please join us in raising money to help end homelessness, just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch.

GoodSearch for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless by following this link: