



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

## Save the Date!

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
cordially invites you to

### *Action Required!*

An all-day legislative action-based event to support unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness,  
hosted and co-sponsored by **Clark University**.

Friday, November 8, 2013

9am-4pm

Clark University, Worcester, MA

#### You've Been Called Into Action!

As part of our "Accompany the Youth" Campaign, the Coalition will be hosting an all-day **"boot camp"** for all those who are passionate about supporting unaccompanied youth and ending youth homelessness.

We will fill our day with speakers, such as Carl Siciliano (Founder and Director of the [Ali Forney Center](#) for Youth, New York), Dr. Alice Colegrove (Public Health Consultant and Youth Homelessness and Housing Expert), Dr. Laurie Ross (Associate Professor of Community Development and Planning Associate and Director for the [Department of International Development, Community and Environment](#) at [Clark University](#)), Maurie Bergeron (Coordinator for the Compass Project at [LUK](#)), just to mention a few. We will alternate between "learning



about" and "learning how." We believe that we need to put our talk into action, and make sure that there is always action to support our words.

## **This Event Is Designed Specifically Around Legislative Action and the Power of Public Policy!**

At this event, we hope to do more than just inform you about youth homelessness, but to provide you with the tools and the skills to start taking steps toward system change at a statewide level.

Learn how to set up meetings with your Senator or State Representative to advocate for [House Bill 135](#), An act providing housing and supportive services for unaccompanied homeless youth. (Click here for a [fact sheet](#).) Learn how to write letters to the editor, host a bill briefing, participate in a bill hearing, organize local events, use social media to advance the cause, and educate others about their role in the legislative process and also learn about what organizations like the Ali Forney Center in New York are doing to respond to the lack of housing and services. We also will focus on how you can participate in the upcoming community point-in-time counts of youth experiencing homelessness and in the [work of the state's Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#).

The Coalition recognizes that legislative action is not for everyone, but it is incredibly important work. We cannot help youth exit and avoid homelessness without comprehensive legislation and the support of our state government. If you want to be a part of the widespread positive change and take action for unaccompanied youth, this is the event for you!

## **Registration**

While registration for this event has not yet begun, we hope you'll consider attending and keep your schedule open on that day!

Registration will begin in early September. The conference will be free, but space will be limited. If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Exa Méndez, our Legislative Advocate, at the email address or phone number listed below.

## **See you there!**

We hope that you'll join us for this "boot camp" and become an advocate in our efforts to end youth homelessness and address the needs of thousands of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness across the Commonwealth.

We need YOU!

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8/16/13

Save the date! Forum on unaccompanied youth homelessness, November 8th, Worcester, MA

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