

Worcester and Springfield Receiver Initiatives

Springfield

In Springfield, city officials have been working closely with MHP and HAP, Inc. to structure a program that responds to significant number of sanitary code violations that are threatening to displace many households.

In December alone, an excess of 20 no-heat cases were reported to Springfield city officials. In some cases, families were displaced from their homes because of inaction by the owners to correct the heating problem. Using MHP funds to repair and/or fill oil tanks, known as the “quick” heat receivership option, is an extremely high priority in the city.

In Springfield, HAP Inc. serves as Program Administrator for MHP’s Receivership program. HAP works with the City of Springfield’s code enforcement and legal departments to evaluate problem properties and to determine what repairs will be required to keep the property occupied. HAP works with the City to decide which cases should be brought to Housing Court to seek receivership. HAP also conducts training for potential receivers in coordination with the Western Massachusetts Housing Court, Springfield code enforcement and legal departments. After a receiver is identified and cases go to court, HAP works with the receiver to cover the costs associated with utilities and necessary repairs. Finally, HAP provides for a full accounting of how funds have been used and makes progress reports to the Housing Court.

For more information about HAP, click [here](#) for their website.

Worcester

In Worcester, MHP has designated Worcester Community Housing Resources (WCHR) as the program administrator and is supporting the city of Worcester’s efforts to use receivership to stabilize properties and neighborhoods. Similarly to HAP in Springfield, WCHR works with the city’s code enforcement and law departments to evaluate properties to determine if a building up to code and safe for tenants to live in. WCHR then works with the city to determine which cases should be taken to Housing Court to seek a receiver. WCHR has a program in place to screen and train receivers. From this pool, WCHR identifies a receiver for cases going to court. After a receiver is identified and cases go to court, WCHR works with the receiver to cover the costs associated with utilities and necessary repairs.

The City’s Property Review Team has already helped stabilize 5 properties through receivership, allowing more than 25 families to stay in their homes and properties to be stabilized rather than condemned.

For more information about WCHR, click [here](#) to be directed to their website.