

Out of area but want to learn more?

We're happy to come to you to share what we've learned, and support you to brainstorm, develop, and/or improve supports in your area. Here are just a few examples of what we can offer:

- Housing law and tenant's rights
- Approaches to tenancy preservation
- Integrating peer support values into housing and homelessness supports
- Keynote or plenary talks
- Individual consultation

We're also happy to develop offerings based on your specific needs, and have many topics that we address beyond housing, homelessness and peer support, as well (e.g., hearing voices, suicide, peer respite, and more). Just be in touch and let's talk!

info@westernmassrlc.org



www.WesternMassRLC.org

187 High Street, Suite 202

Holyoke, MA 01040

413.539.5941

Finding Shelter through Peer Support



WOULD PEER SUPPORT BENEFIT YOU?

What we're proposing: We have found that offering even five hours per week of a regularly scheduled, well-trained peer supporter at a multi-unit property can have substantial positive impact for both property managers and tenants alike.

Similarly, offering even a few hours per week of peer support at shelters or other environments where people living without homes are likely to be or gather can make a huge difference in people's awareness of housing options and belief that it's possible to move through such difficult spots in life.

At times, we're also able to offer support to individuals just reaching out on their own about housing options or related assistance.

Whatever your need may be, call us to talk about what would work for you!

What is peer support in housing and homelessness?: People working in peer support and housing/homelessness are people who have faced homelessness and/or other challenges with housing themselves, along with a variety of other struggles. They know what it's like to not have a home to return to at night, to live in shelters or other group living environments, and to navigate many systems on their way to getting back on their feet.

Most importantly, peer supporters working in housing are passionate about sharing what they've learned and using that wisdom to help others along their own journeys.

SOME OF WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- ⇒ One-on-one peer support
- ⇒ Support group facilitation
- ⇒ Tenant mediation
- ⇒ Coordination of community events designed to bring tenants together
- ⇒ Assistance filling out forms for health insurance and other relevant services
- ⇒ Assistance in developing payment plans and navigating housing court
- ⇒ Education about housing and tenancy rights and regulations
- ⇒ Advocacy and negotiation between residents and property managers
- ⇒ Information about current housing options
- ⇒ Connections to community resources
- ⇒ And more!

What is the Western Mass RLC?

The Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC) supports healing and empowerment for our broader communities and people who have been impacted by psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, extreme states, homelessness, addiction and other life-interrupting challenges through:

- Peer-to-peer support & genuine human relationships
- Alternative healing practices
- Learning opportunities
- Advocacy

Essential to our work is recognizing and undoing systemic injustices such as racism, sexism, transphobia and psychiatric oppression.

Some of the outcomes we've seen after integrating peer support and housing/homelessness services:

- Dramatically reduced eviction rates
- Increased health insurance enrollment
- Increased access to and effective use of health services
- Increased sense of community among tenants
- Reduced conflict between tenants
- Increased connection to community resources
- Increased awareness of and successful application to housing options for individuals who are living without a home
- Improved quality of life

