Employment and Education

The employment and education programs enhance the local economy and contribute to a vibrant community by preparing people for meaningful work through education, employment and skills training.

EMPLOYMENT

- United Way Supporting Work Program links unemployed and low-wage workers to employers in the community. The program also emphasizes financial literacy, workplace requirements, resume preparation, interviewing skills and linkages to education programming.
- Ready, Willing and Able is a temporary labor program which is often a “first step” employment program that allows people the opportunity to engage in work with the workplace while working toward permanent employment.
- Specialized Employment Services provide a wide range of vocational services to targeted populations who have been on the margins of mainstream employment—people with significant social and education barriers. We provide comprehensives and supportive employment services to assist individuals to move towards greater self-sufficiency and economic independence.

TRAINING

- The Grow Jobs Academy is a remaining program in the growing fields of information technology and conservation. The program provides classroom training, hands-on lab training, job placement and employment support.
- The Emergency Medical Technician program supports individuals to earn EMT credentials to work in a variety of settings.
- The Office Skills Training program provides computer and office skills training to individuals looking for a career in an institutional office settings.

EDUCATION

- The Brack Adult Learning Center provides both classroom and individualized instruction for adults who benefit from math, science, social studies, reading and writing to attain greater self-sufficiency.
- The Learning Center offers:
  - English as a Second Language (ESL)
  - Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED)

- The Office Skills Training program provides computer and office skills training to individuals looking for a career in an institutional office settings.

About Us...

Founded in 1965 as part of the Federal “War on Poverty,” The South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) is an umbrella organization that works with the community to provide opportunities to enhance self-sufficiency and to create a safety net when short-term support is needed. SMOC is the designated community-based anti-poverty agency for ten towns in the Metrowest area and is headquartered in Framingham, committed to transportation and additional services.

As a multi-service agency, SMOC is in a unique position to provide integrated community-based services recognizing that the lives of individuals and families are complex and that needs are inter-related. As a community action agency, we also seek to create opportunities for self-sufficiency through community advocacy.

Over the past forty years, the agency has evolved to meet a wide range of challenges that people living in the community face. Our main areas of programming include: Family and Nutrition; Employment and Education; Behavioral Health Services and Comprehensive Housing Services. The agency also expanded to meet growing needs of homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the greater Worcester region who are affiliated with the People’s Place and through some Specialized Employment Services dew in 2008 and in 2009 we became the Greater Worcester Housing Connection. In 2009, we also affiliated with the Open Pantry Community Services in Springfield to provide additional food aid.

In 2004 and in 2009 we became affiliated with the South Middlesex Housing Corporation. In 2009, we also affiliated with the Open Pantry Community Services in Springfield to provide additional food aid and expanded our outreach throughout Western MA.

Essential to the effectiveness of SMOC is the involvement of various segments of the community in the policy-making and decision making process of the organization. SMOC guarantees high quality comprehensive, individualized, culturally appropriate services to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or ability to pay the services. SMOC programs apply known best practices in environments that are culturally centered, strength-based and trauma-informed.
**Family and Nutrition**

**Child Care**

The child care program, with centers and home-based services located in the Metrowest area, provides morning and educational opportunities for children ages one month to 12 years. Child Care services emphasize the individuality of each child, a positive self-image and the strengthening of family and community relationships.

**Head Start**

The Head Start program is a comprehensive community based program for three and four year olds and their families. This pre-school program, with sites located in the Metrowest area, provides nutrition services in early childhood, nutrition and social services that prepare children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

**WIC**

The Women, Infant and Children program keeps women and children healthy and vigorous through several programs throughout the Commonwealth. These programs rely on extensive networks of community resources including employment, health and behavioral health and education.

**METROWEST HARVEST:**

Driving Out Hunger

In 1994, community leaders established Metrowest Harvest to help families throughout the region. Today, a variety of high quality donated food and produce is distributed to over twenty food pantries and food pantries directly into the homes of those in need.

**OPEN PANTRY COMMUNITY SERVICES: LOAVES AND FISHES KITCHEN**

SMOC meets the most basic needs of individuals and families by providing hot meals and access to food pantries through several programs throughout the Commonwealth. These programs rely on extensive networks of individual and organizational volunteer support to address hunger in our community.

**OPEN PANTRY COMMUNITY SERVICES: THE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY**

The Emergency Food Pantry provides portable and non-perishable food for households in the Springfield area. In addition, there are two specialized programs in the pantry including the Senior Food Choice Program as well as an outreach site for the Department of Transitional Assistance that provides on-line food assistance, and medical, mental health, and substance abuse referrals for homeless people living in area shelters, on the streets, or temporarily doubled up with friends or relatives.

**Behavioral Healthcare**

Behavioral Healthcare services and programs provide treatment, skill building and support to individuals and families so they can overcome obstacles and are empowered in their lives and communities.

**Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinics**

There are two licensed clinics – one in Framingham and one in Marlborough that provide professional counseling through comprehensive clinical services and mental health services.

**Residential Substance Abuse Programs**

- **New Beginnings:** The New Beginnings program is a permanent housing program for men and women living with HIV/AIDS who are in recovery.
- **Sage House:** Sage House provides residential substance abuse treatment and case management for families who are homeless or at risk of homeless due to substance abuse. The program includes two parent families and families with a single adult of household.
- **Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program:** The Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program consists of three distinct programs: -Blind to Recovery, Serenity House and the Serenity House Program. Each program provides individualized case management and also facilitates a scholar of daily and educational groups to enhance recovery.

**IN HOME SERVICES**

Home-based therapy and behavioral health services are provided for eligible families.

**Driver Adult Education**

The DMV program is a basic education program that is mandated by the courts for first and second time offenders who were charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

**VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE**

The Violence Against Violence Program provides comprehensive support, counseling, legal advocacy and confidential shelter to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**Housing**

The housing programs stabilize the community by providing resources for individuals and families to live in affordable, safe and secure environments.

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

Metrowest

- **Housing Services Center:** provides comprehensive housing and supportive services to families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness through professional, emergency housing and permanent housing search and stabilization services. The Center also provides information, referral, education and intervention to stabilize housing for families and individuals, potential homeless, landlords and homeowners and includes the temporary programs.
- **The Common Ground Resource Center:** is the hub of an integrated service delivery system for single adults that are experiencing homelessness or formerly or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the region.
- **Central MA:** The Greater Worcester Housing Connection provides case management, housing search assistance, and medical, mental health, and substance abuse referrals for homeless people living in area shelters, on the streets, or temporarily doubled up with friends or relatives.

**Energy and Conservation Services**

The fuel ЛАКI and weatherization programs assist households in home heating and weatherization.

**Rental Assistance**

The Rental Assistance Program utilizes the MA Rental Voucher Program and Federal Section 8 subsidies to provide direct housing assistance for eligible households by paying landlords directly.

**Home Modification**

The Home Modification Loan Program provides interest-free, or low-interest loans to disabled homeowners and their families to enhance accessibility.

**Supported Housing Network**

The Supported Housing Network provides traditional and non-subsidized transitional and permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families including emergency housing program, housing first program, service coordinator and permanent housing.

**Housing Development and Management**

The South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation owns, develops, and manages the agency’s housing portfolio to address the need for decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income families, individuals and disabled adults through the preservation and improvement of existing affordable housing and the development of new housing.

**Ending Homelessness**

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Family and Nutrition

The family and nutrition programs enhance the health and well-being of the entire community by providing healthy food, nutrition education and child and family-centered education.

Child Care

The child care programs, with centers and home-based services located in the Metrowest area, provide morning and after-school options that support families who have children under five and are dedicated to learning and personal growth.

WIC

The Women, Infant and Children Program keeps families healthy and provides food to pregnant and breastfeeding women and children. The program precludes high-risk pregnancies and helps parents ensure that their children have access to healthy food and health education.

Head Start

The Head Start program is a comprehensive community-based program for three and four year-olds and their families. This preschool program, which is located in the Metrowest area, provides learning experiences in early education, health, nutrition, and other social services that are designed for children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

Family and Nutrition programs enhance the health and well-being of the entire community by providing healthy food, nutrition education and child and family-centered education.

Behavioral Healthcare

Behavioral Healthcare services and programs provide treatment, skill building and support to individuals and families so they can overcome obstacles and are empowered in their lives and communities.

Open Door Social Services

The Emergency Food Pantry provides perishable and non-perishable food for households in the Springfield area. In addition, there are two supplemental programs embedded in the pantry including the Senior Food Choice Program and the Senior Food Pantry. Open Door Social Services, Inc. is the hub of an integrated service delivery system for single adults that are experiencing homelessness or formerly or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the region.

Metrowest Habitat: Opening Doors, Changing Lives

In 1989, community leaders established Metrowest Habitat for Humanity. Today, a variety of high-quality donated food and prepared meals are distributed over twenty shelters and food pantries directly helping those in need.

Pantry Services and Programs

The Greater Worcester Housing Connection is the hub of an integrated service delivery system for single adults that are experiencing homelessness or formerly or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the region.

Rent Assistance

The Rental Assistance Program utilizes the MA Rental Voucher Program and Federal Section 8 subsidies to provide direct housing assistance for eligible households by paying landlords directly.

Housing Development and Management

The South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Inc. develops, develops, and manages the agency’s housing portfolio to address the need for decent, safe, and affordable housing for lower income families, individuals and disabled adults through the preservation and improvement of existing affordable housing and the development of new housing.

Housing Services Center

The Housing Services Center provides comprehensive housing and services to families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness through homeless prevention, access to emergency housing and permanent housing search and relocation services. The Center also provides information, referral, education, and intervention to help families for individuals and families, potential homeowners, landlords and tenancy and includes the homeless prevention programs.

211 Metropolitan Area

The Commonwealth 211 Service is the source for consumer-oriented information and referrals to a wide variety of human service programs and organizations. It is a 24-hour, seven day a week service available in all 14 counties.

Next, the Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program consists of three distinct programs: —Blindleys to Recovery, Serenity House and the Men’s Program. Each program provides individualized case management and also facilitates a schedule of daily support and educational groups to enhance sobriety.

Residential Substance Abuse Programs

The Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program provides individualized case management for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to substance abuse. The program serves two parent families and families with a single male head of household.

VOICES Against VIOLENCE

The Worcester Against Violence Program provides comprehensive support, counseling, legal advocacy and confidential shelter to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In Home Services

In Home Services provides comprehensive housing and services to eligible families.

Justice Assistance

The Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program is a comprehensive community based program for three and four year-olds and their families. This preschool program, which is located in the Metrowest area, provides learning experiences in early education, health, nutrition, and other social services that are designed for children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

Traffic Program

The Traffic Program consists of three distinct programs: —Blindleys to Recovery, Serenity House and the Men’s Program. Each program provides individualized case management and also facilitates a schedule of daily support and educational groups to enhance sobriety.

DRIVER Adult Education

The DMV provides to the Traffic Program education that is mandated by the courts for first and second time offenders who were charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinics

There are two licensed clinics — one in Framingham and one in Marlborough that provide professional counseling through expertise clinical substance abuse and mental health services.

Driver Adult Education

The Traffic Program is a comprehensive community based program for three and four year-olds and their families. This preschool program, which is located in the Metrowest area, provides learning experiences in early education, health, nutrition, and other social services that are designed for children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

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**Family and Nutrition**

The family and nutrition programs enhance the health and well-being of the entire community by providing healthy food, nutrition education and child and family-centered education.

**Child Care**
The child care program, with centers and home-based services located in the Metropolitan area, provides morning and educational opportunities that can intervene in learning and provide five for children ages one month to 12 years. Child Care services emphasize the individuality of each child, a positive self-image and the strengthening of family and community relationships.

**Head Start**
The Head Start program is a comprehensive community-based program for those at low-income and their families. This pre-kindergarten, where also located in the Metropolitan area, provides early education in early education, healthy lifestyle, and social services that prepare children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

**WIC**
The Women, Infant and Children program keeps you healthy and breastfeeding you and children through age 5. Healthy WIC provides nutrition and health education, healthy food, immunizations, screening, referrals for additional services and a whole lot more. The caring environment of the program ensures families with young children and supports those through individualized nutrition planning – to ensure healthy and vibrant kids that participate in our communities.

**MetroWest Harvest: Sharing Our Harvest**
In 1999, community leaders established MetroWest Harvest to help feed hungry. Today, a variety of high-quality donated food and fresh produce is distributed over twenty shelters and food pantries directly helping those in need.

**Open Pantry Community Services: Loaves and Fishes Kitchen**
SOMC meets the most basic needs of individuals and families by providing hot meals and access to food pantries through several programs throughout the Commonwealth. These programs rely on extensive networks of individuals and organizational volunteers to support access to nutritious food.

**Open Pantry Community Services: The Emergency Food Pantry**
The Emergency Food Pantry provides portable and non-portable food for households in the Springfield area. In addition, there are two specialized programs established in the pantry including the Senior Food Choice program as well as an outreach site for the Department of Transitional Assistance that provides on-line food stamp enrollment and all follow-up services.

**Behavioral Healthcare**

**Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinics**
There are two licensed clinics – one in Framingham and one in Marlborough that provide professional counseling through expert clinical substance abuse and mental health services.

**Residential Substance Abuse Programs**
- **New Beginning** The New Beginning programs in a permanent housing program for men and women living with HIV/AIDS who are in recovery.
- **Sage House** Sage House provides residential substance abuse treatment and case management for families who can leverage or at risk of homelessness due to substance abuse. The program inculcates two parent families and families with one single parent of household.
- **Women's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment** Program consists of three distinct programs: - Burance to Recovery, Serenity House and the Teenagers Program. Each program provides individualized case management and also facilitates a scholar of daily support and educational groups to enhance stability.

**In Home Services**
Home-based therapy and behavioral health services are provided to eligible families.

**Driver Adult Education**
The Driver Adult Education program is a free adult education program that is reimbursed by the state for first and second time offenders who were charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Voices Against Violence**
The Violence Against Violence Program provides comprehensive support, counseling, legal advocacy and confidential shelter to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**Housing**
The housing programs stabilize the community by providing resources for individuals and families to live in affordable, safe and sustainable environment.

**Ending Homelessness**

**MetroWest Housing Services Center** provides comprehensive housing and services to families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness through homes for prevention, access to emergency housing and permanent housing search and stabilization services. The site also provides information, referral, education and intervention to rehouse families and individuals, potential homeowners, landlords and homeowners and includes the homeless prevention program.

**The Common Ground Resource Center** is the hub of an integrated service delivery system for single adults that are experiencing homelessness or formerly or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the region.

**Central MA**
The Greater Worcester Housing Connection provides housing and services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the Worcester region. As part of a collaborative effort to reduce and eliminate homelessness, the Housing Connection provides permanent housing solutions, services and linkages to resources including employment, health and behavioral health and education.

**Western MA**
The Open Pantry’s Open Door Social Services program provides case management, housing search assistance, and medical, mental health, and substance abuse referrals for homeless people living in area shelters, on the streets, or temporarily doubled up with friends or relatives.

**Energy and Conservation Services**
The fuel assistance programs assist households in home heating and weatherization.

**Rental Assistance**
The Rental Assistance Program utilizes the MA Rental Voucher Program and Federal Section 8 subsidies to provide direct housing assistance for eligible households by paying landlord directly.

**Home Modification**
The Home Modification Loan Program provides interest-free, or low-interest loans to disabled homeowners and their families to enhance accessibility.

**Supported Housing Network**
The Supported Housing Network provides specialized and non-specialized transitional and permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families including emergency housing programs, housing first programs, service-enriched housing and permanent housing.

**Housing Development and Management**
The South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation develops, develops, and manages the agency’s housing portfolio to address the need for decent, safe, and affordable housing for low and moderate-income families and individuals and disabled adults through the preservation and improvement of existing affordable housing and the development of new housing units.

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**Image Description:**
- Family and Nutrition: Programs include child care, nutrition education, and Head Start.
- Behavioral Healthcare: Services range from outpatient clinics to residential substance abuse treatment.
- Housing: Programs focus on ending homelessness and stabilizing the community through various housing assistance programs.

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**Note:** The text appears to be an excerpt from a larger document, possibly a public report or community services directory.
Employment and Education

The employment and education programs enhance the local economy and contribute to a vibrant community by preparing people for meaningful work through education, employment and skills training.

EMPLOYMENT

1. United Way Supporting Work Program links unemployed and low-wage workers to employers in the community. The program also emphasizes financial literacy, workplace requirements, resume preparation, interviewing skills and linkages to education programming.
2. Ready, Willing and Able is a temporary labor program which is often a “first step” employment program that allows people the opportunity to engage in re-employment with the workplace while working toward permanent employment.
3. Specialized Employment Services provide a wide range of vocational services to targeted populations who have barriers to mainstream employment—people with significant social and education barriers. We provide comprehensive and supportive employment services to assist individuals to move towards greater self-sufficiency and economic independence.

TRAINING

1. The Grow Jobs Academy is an entering program in the growing fields of sustainability and conservation. The program provides classroom training, hands-on training, job placement and employment support.
2. Emergency Medical Technician program supports individuals to train as EMT workers to work in a variety of settings.
3. Office Skills Training program provides computer and office skills training to individuals looking for a career in an industrial office setting.

EDUCATION

1. The Brack Adult Learning Center provides both classroom and individualized instruction for adults who benefit from math, science, social studies, reading and writing in order to attain greater self-sufficiency.
2. The Learning Center offers:
   - English as a Second Language (ESL)
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About Us...

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As a multi-service agency, SMOC is in a unique position to provide integrated community-based services recognizing that the lives of individuals and families are complex and that needs are inter-related. As a community action agency, we are also able to create more opportunities for self-sufficiency through community advocacy.

Over the past forty years, the agency has evolved to meet a wide range of challenges that people living in the community face. Our full range of programming includes Family and Nutrition, Employment and Education, Environmental Health Services, and Comprehensive Housing Services. The agency also expanded to meet new growth needs of homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the greater Worcester region when it was affiliated with the People First Community Services Program in 1990 and in 2009 we became the Greater Worcester Housing Connection. In 2004 and in 2009 we became affiliated with the Open Pantry Community Services of Springfield to provide additional housing, food and support services throughout Western MA.

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Over the past forty years, the agency has evolved to meet a wider range of challenges that people living in the community face. Our four main areas of programming include: Family and Nutrition; Employment and Education; Behavioral Healthcare; Housing. The agency also expanded in 2004 to include an additional office in Marlborough and in 2009 we expanded to meet the housing needs of homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the greater Worcester region.

SMOC provides high quality, compassionate, individualized, client appropriate services to any individual regardless of race, sex, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or ability to pay the services.

SMOC programs apply best practices in environments that are client-centered, strength-based and trauma-informed.