The child care program, with centers and home-based services located in the Metrowest area, provides nurturing and educational environments that are conducive to learning and personal growth 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.

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 nurturing services in early education, health, nutrition and social services that prepare children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

The Women, Infant and Children program keeps pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 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 this program nurtures families with young children and supports them – through individualized nutrition planning – in raising healthy and vibrant kids that participate in our communities.

In 1989, community leaders established Metrowest Harvest to help feed the hungry. Today, a variety of high quality donated food and prepared meals are distributed to over twenty shelters and food pantries directly helping those in need.

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 communities.

The Emergency Food Pantry provides perishable and non-perishable food for households in the Springfield area. In addition, there are two specialized programs embedded 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 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 outpatient clinical substance abuse 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 homelessness due to substance abuse. The program targets two-parent families and families with a single-male head of household.
- **Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment**: The Women’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program consists of three distinct programs: - **Rhodes to Recovery**, **Serenity House** and the **Meadows Program**. Each program provides individualized case management and also facilitates a schedule of daily support and educational groups to enhance sobriety.

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

Driver Adult Education
The DAE program is a 16-week 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 Voices Against Violence Program provides comprehensive support, counseling, legal advocacy and confidential shelter to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
Ending Homelessness

**MetroWest**

- **Housing Services Center** provides comprehensive housing and services to families who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness through homeless prevention, access to 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 homebuyers, landlords and homeowners and includes the foreclosure 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**

- **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 (LIHEAP) and weatherization programs assist households in home heating and weatherization costs.

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 subsidized and non-subsidized transitional and permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families including emergency housing programs, housing first programs, service-enriched housing and permanent affordable 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 choices.
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 (or re-engage with the workplace with the goal of transitioning into 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 comprehensive and supportive employment services to assist individuals to move towards greater self-sufficiency and economic independence.

**Training**
- **The Green Jobs Academy** is a training program in the growing field of weatherization and conservation. The program provides classroom training, hands-on lab training, job placement and employment support.
- **The Emergency Medical Technician program** supports individuals to train as EMT workers to work in a variety of settings.
- **The Office Skills Training program** provides computer and other office skills training to individuals looking for a career in traditional 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 in order to attain greater self-sufficiency.

The Learning Center offers:
- **Adult Basic Education (ABE)**
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)**
- **Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED)**
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 in 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 downtown Framingham, convenient 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 new opportunities for self-sufficiency through community advocacy.

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 Health Services and Comprehensive Housing Services. The agency also expanded to meet housing needs of homeless and formerly homeless individuals in the greater Worcester region when we affiliated with the People In Peril Social Services Agency in 2004 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 housing, food and supportive services throughout Western MA.

Essential to the effectiveness of SMOC is the involvement of various segments of the community in the policy and decision making process of the organization. SMOC guarantees high quality, accessible, individualized, culturally appropriate services to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or ability to pay for services.

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