RESOURCE GUIDE

July 2021 Resource Guide



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VitalVil





Dear Reader,

The Wellness Idea Bank is a comprehensive and community-driven guide for those in the Greater Boston Area that helps to aggregate resources, ideas, and events for supporting wellness and social connections.

All resources on the Wellness Idea Bank are curated and submitted by members of the VVN community, and it is our community that makes this project possible. If you would like to see a new resource added, you can do so at <u>https://bit.ly/WellnessIdeasSubmit</u>.

Thank you for reading, and we hope that the Wellness Idea Bank proves itself useful to you!

The VVN Staff

I. Featured Resources

Boston Reopening Plans

The Boston / Massachusetts reopening plan called for ending restrictions when vaccines became widely available, and effective May 29, 2021 all industries were permitted to open. With the exception of remaining facecovering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions were also lifted, and capacity increased to 100% for all industries. All industries are encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

Available in: English, Other languages available Available to: Boston residents

CDC Moratorium Extension

The Biden administration announced on March 30th an extension of the federal eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021. According to the updated order, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has extended the eviction moratorium for three months but otherwise left the earlier moratorium provisions in place. Unfortunately, this means that the federal moratorium is still limited to those tenants who are facing eviction due to non-payment of rent and who also meet the criteria listed in the updated CDC Declaration (attached). Housing and District Courts in Massachusetts will continue to hear eviction cases and issue judgments.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky has signed an extension to the eviction moratorium further preventing the eviction of tenants who are unable to make rental payments. The moratorium that was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021 is now extended through July 31, 2021 and this is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium.

> Available in: English Available to: Everyone

Healthy Incentives Program

In Massachusetts, all SNAP shoppers can take part in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). If you get SNAP benefits, you can earn an instant, dollar-for-dollar match on your EBT card when you buy fresh fruits and vegetables. You can take part in the program at participating farmers market locations!

> Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts Residents

Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Info

People age 12 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. If you are under 18 years old, there are certain steps you should take. Massachusetts' preregistration system makes it easier to request and schedule an appointment. People can preregister for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at mass vaccination locations and certain regional collaborative locations only. More locations will continue to be added. Learn more about preregistration and finding vaccination sites at the link above.

> Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts residents

Mass Legal Help

Legal information about a wide range of housing related legal issues, including the CDC moratorium, and information about evictions. Also has a link to the CDC Moratorium form.

> Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts residents

II. Time Sensitive Resources

Discovery Museum Job Opportunities

Discovery Museum is a hands-on museum for families that blends science, nature, and play.

Discovery Museum is also currently hiring both full-time and volunteer positions, and it offers a creative, fun, and flexible work environment. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

Due to our work with children, all positions require an interview with a supervisor and a satisfactory CORI check.

Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts residents

Urbano Project: Artist-in-Residence

Urbano Project is inviting applications for our Artists-in-Residence (AiR) program from artists working in a range of media whose creative practices resonate with our 2021-2022 curatorial theme, Democracy. This year, we're exploring how we understand democracy and equality individually, collectively, as well as through a lens of intersectionality. Topics of exploration include representation, inclusion, participation, collaboration, accessibility, human rights advocacy, mutual aid, capitalism, and other social systems and civic dialogues. Artists' practices may include (but are not limited to) community organizing, placemaking, public art, activism, social practice, institutional critique, and participatory artmaking. Projects that bring art into public spaces (in-person or digital) and provide opportunities for community participation are preferred.

The deadline for applications is August 10.

Available in: English Available to: Anyone

The Boston Foundation: Director, Arts and

Culture

The Director, Arts & Culture drives development, implementation, and evaluation of the Foundation's Arts & Culture strategy, which aims to strengthen and support the region's cultural sector through grantmaking, research, and advocacy.

At present, Arts & Culture grantmaking supports individual artists through three different programs, including Live Arts Boston; resources the advocacy and arts service portions of the sector that serve as critical infrastructure; invests in building a culture of public art; and supports continued efforts to foreground racial and cultural equity in the arts sector. A major focus for the immediate future will be on supporting a just and equitable recovery in the sector from losses incurred during the ongoing pandemic.

> Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts residents

MassHire Job Opportunities

MassHire has a comprehensive list of employers who are hiring during COVID-19. Visit the website to learn more and register for webinar info sessions.

Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts, Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury residents

NEFA – July 2021 Jobs & Opportunities

The New England Foundation for the Arts has released a list of jobs and opportunities for those in New England and elsewhere related to the arts and culture.

Available in: English Available to: Boston / Massachusetts residents, Anyone

III. COVID-19 Resources

COVID-19 Resource Map

This is the map sharing COVID-19 related resources in the city of Boston that are accessible by visiting. The information may change rapidly. Please contact each location before visiting. We will add more resources and keep this page updated as we receive more information.

> Available in: English Available to: Boston Residents

COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Initiative

A comprehensive set of resources to support tenants and landlords during the financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

> Available in: English Available to: Massachusetts residents

Unemployment Information Fact Sheet

Map of COVID-19 Testing Sites

Some information from the City of Boston regarding COVID-19 testing and a map to look up testing locations.

Available in: English Available to: Boston Residents Summary of UI programs available during Covid-19, including eligibility definitions, benefit amounts and duration and effect of part-time earnings.

> Available in: English Available to: Boston Residents

NLC COVID-19 Local Action Tracker

The National League of Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies have teamed up to collect and share actions taken by local leaders in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

> Available in: English Available to: Anyone

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

This has been a stressful a time for many people, but the new vaccine is an exciting step in our fight against COVID-19 and in returning to a more normal way of life. It is natural, as with any new medication or treatment, that people have questions about it. In the age of social media, it is easy for false information to spread quickly. Here are some facts from Tufts Medical Center's Infectious Diseases doctors.

> Available in: English Available to: Anyone

IV. Volunteering Resources

Boston Cares

Boston Cares is the largest volunteer agency in New England, a member of the Points of Light Global Network, and an award-winning leader in the volunteer engagement sector. Filling more than 25,000 volunteer spots annually in support of more than 180 Greater Boston schools and non-profit agencies, we offer a wide array of programs and opportunities that make it simple for you to volunteer no matter how busy your schedule. Both virtual and in-person volunteering is available!

Available to: Boston Residents

FriendshipWorks

For 36 years, FriendshipWorks has worked to reduce social isolation in Boston by matching volunteers to older adults in need of assistance. FriendshipWorks is continuing to support elders with regular phone calls and the addition of virtual visiting with online technology. To refer an elder or to become a virtual volunteer, please fill out a form or contact the appropriate staff person on the Contact Us page.

Available to: Boston Residents

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Boston

Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston is now welcoming volunteers back to our Build Sites and ReStore. Because of COVID-19 requirements for social distancing, Build Days will be offered only to groups of no more than five participants. Individual volunteers will be accepted, but only at the ReStore location in West Roxbury. Individual construction opportunities may arise in the fall and winter, please check the Individual volunteering page for more information.

Available to: Boston Residents

Red Cross - Donate Blood

Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients. Please give now.

Available to: Anyone

Somerville Homeless Coalition - Project Soup

The Somerville Homeless Coalition's Project Soup is in need of volunteers to help pack bags of food or deliver groceries to those who are unable to get to its food pantry. Volunteers can also work with their church or another group to cook a Monday night meal, held at the First Congregational Church of Somerville.

Available to: Boston Residents

Victory Programs

Victory Programs is hosting a limited number of volunteers at two of its programs in Boston, the Boston Living Center and ReVision Urban Farm. Volunteers at the Boston Living Center can help serve meals in a limited-capacity room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. At ReVision Urban Farm, help is needed harvesting food and preparing growing beds, with shifts available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Victory Programs has virtual volunteer opportunities, from job readiness programs to art and yoga classes.

Available to: Boston Residents

V. Vital Village Volunteering

Boston Breastfeeding Coalition Volunteer Opportunities

Lactation Counselor Virtual Support Group Volunteer

Join our volunteer team of Peer Counselors, Certified Lactation Counselors, and International Board Certified Lactation Counselors. We provide free, professional lactation counseling and support to anyone struggling with the ups and downs of breastfeeding or parenting. All of our support groups are currently virtual and held over Zoom.

- Time Commitment: Weekly, 1.5-2 hour shifts available. Attendance for every week is not necessary as long as your availability is communicated.
- Dates and Times: Virtual groups offered Monday-Friday at the same time each week. View the website here to see the options for each day.
- Qualifications/Requirements: Must have completed a Certified Lactation Counselor Training or ROSE (Reaching Out Sisters Everywhere) Training. A brief orientation and meeting with current lactation counselor volunteers will occur prior to volunteering.
- Contact Information: Please contact bostonbreastfeeding@bmc.org if you are interested in volunteering. We will let you know when the next volunteer orientation will be held. You may use the following message:
 - I am interested in volunteering for the [Day, time] lactation support group. I have [X] qualifications and am wondering when the next volunteer orientation is being held.

Learn More: <u>https://bostonbreastfeeding.weebly.com/virtual-support-groups.html</u>

Mental Health Committee

We welcome you to join the Mental Health Committee! We are a group of individuals who are passionate about enacting change in their community and promoting positive social and emotional wellbeing and mental health. This is a group that meets biweekly, and you are not required to attend each meeting. Please reach out to the contact below if you are interested!

Questions/Email: troy.biermann@bmc.org