

# NEWSLETTER

# JUSTICE FOR HOUSING



## LEGISLATION

**A**n Act Relative to Homes For All.

Senate version ([S.866](#) & [H.1799](#) sponsor, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz & Representative Liz Miranda, assigned to the Joint Committee of Housing and Judiciary. Hearings scheduled for January 2021. Find your [legislator](#), ask to vote to pass the bill and [sign](#) our petition.

[H.4071](#) "An Act securing housing options for eligible tenants with a history of criminal justice involvement", bill sponsor Nika Elugardo, was assigned to the Joint Committee of Housing.

The legislation states that the Dept. of Neighborhood Development shall partner with established community based organizations, led by directly affected individuals, to provide State vouchers to individuals reentering after incarceration. Find your [legislator](#) & [sign](#) our petition.

## TAKE ACTION

[Sign](#) Our Petition to Change Public Housing Discriminatory Policies



### We are making History!

Justice 4 Housing & [Boston Housing Authority](#) are providing 15 Section 8 Vouchers, to parents reentering the community after incarceration. 60% of incarcerated individuals' children were placed in foster care. The "STABLE HOUSING AND REINTEGRATION PILOT PROGRAM (SHARPP)" is reuniting children with their parents.(SHARPP) is reuniting children with their parents.

## Donate Here

PAYPAL

GOFUNDME

WEBSITE



## HANDS ON DEFENSE

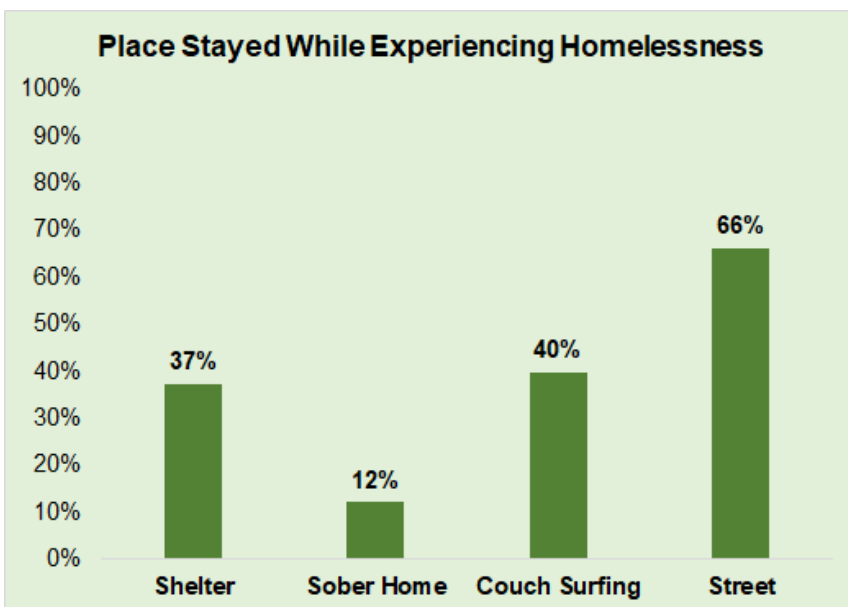
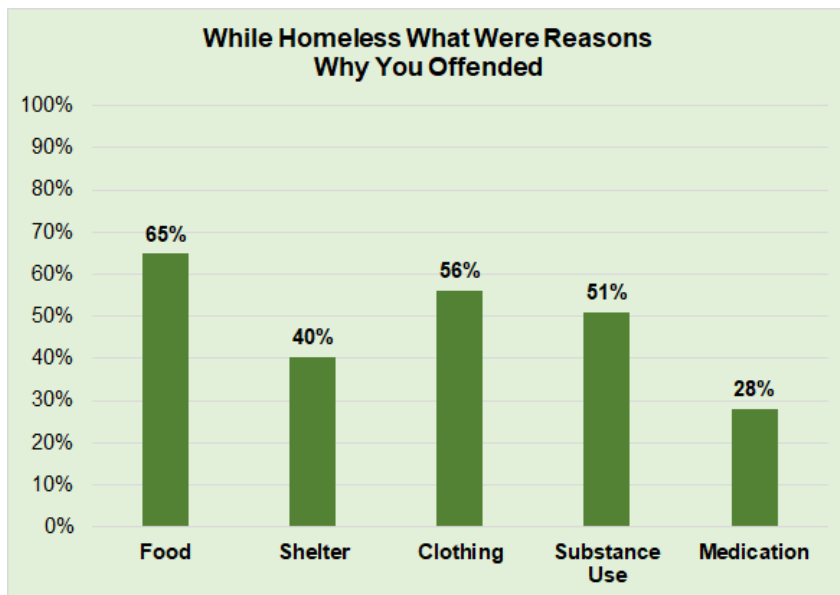
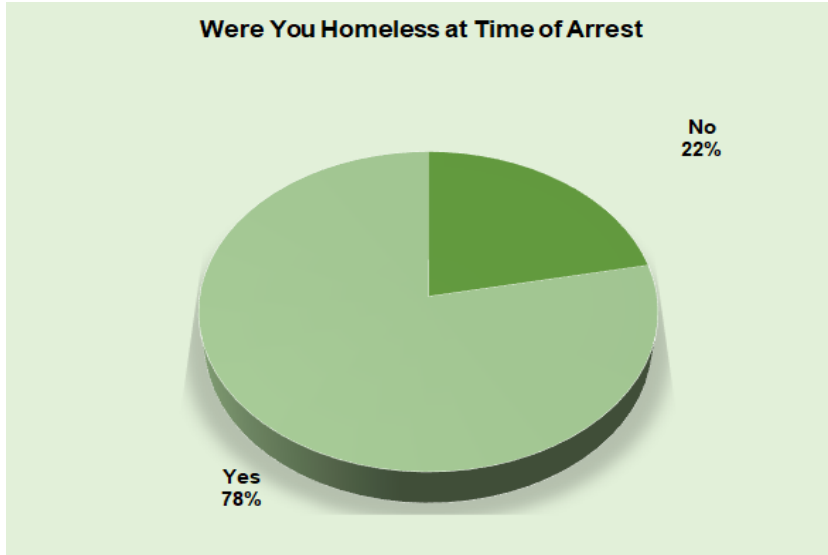
Our Hands on Defense (HOD) Model is designed to disrupt the process Public Housing Authorities use to exclude those with a criminal record.

**Hands On Defense Training to use of the Hands On Defense Model.**

# NASHUA STREET JAIL COVID SURVEY

## Data Analysis

We surveyed over 100 men and women being released on bail at the Nashua Street and South Bay Jails. The following data points are the results of a 6 month survey data collection.

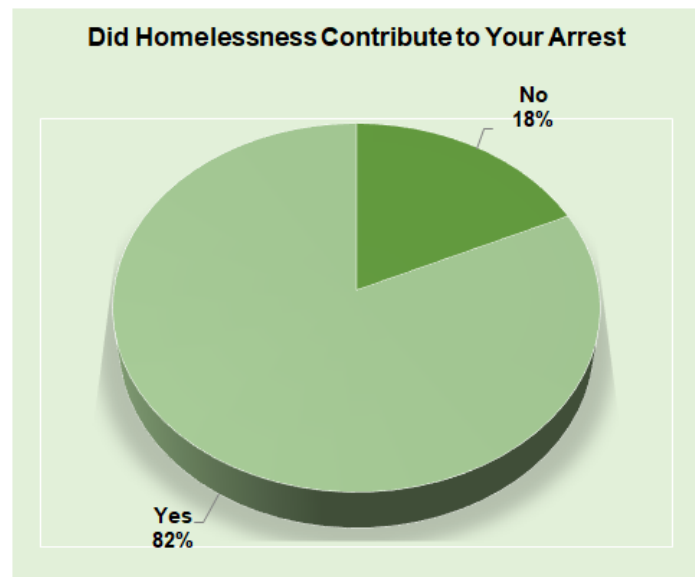


## JAMES

**THIS QUARTERS ABSOLUTE WORST IS: THE PINE STREET INN!!**

Pine Street Inn (a homeless shelter) was evicting James, a formerly incarcerated man who was in the hospital for an amputation. When Robert requested the support of J4H for support we asked the Pine Street Inn, why are they attempting to evict a man 1) during a COVID Pan-demic, 2) in a rehab, 3) recovering from an amputation? Their response was, "it's a HUD rule" (we saw that one coming) All of the Public Housing Authorities blame HUD when they know they are morally wrong. James was lucky he had J4H. We were able to save James from losing his subsidy apartment.

If you are justice-involved and feel you are being misled, bullied or discriminat-ed against. Contact Us. @Justice4Housing



# We are ending a year long COVID outreach We want to thank our supporters

Brigham & Womens Hospital \* Boston Public Health \* City of Boston



## 5 WAYS

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
CAN PREVENT RECIDIVISM  
BY HELPING FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE  
BUILD CREDIT:

- PROVIDE 2ND CHANCE CREDIT CARDS
- REMOVE THE CREDIT CHECK BARRIER FOR FIP RELEASED WITHIN THE PAST 7 YEARS
- FORGIVE DEBT OCCURRED ONCE A PERSON IS INCARCERATED
- CREATE AN ALERT TO BLOCK CREDIT WHEN INDIVIDUALS ARE SENTENCED TO PRISON
- LOWER THE CREDIT SCORE RATING FOR FIP



## New Partnerships

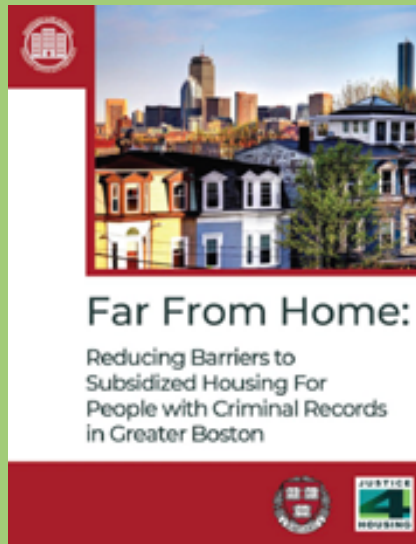
- \* Material Aid and Advocacy Program
- \* Bank On Boston
- \* Partakers
- \* Whittier Street Health Center
- \* Dorchester Bay
- \* Project Place



## ACT Up Stand Out

We stand with our comrade ACT UP ! Protecting the homeless community suffering from substance use, living with HIV and individuals with disabilities. Read the [article](#).

## COMING SOON



Organization sign-on  
**HERE**

Reinstated **4** loss of  
Section voucher

We reversed **9** denials  
for public housing

We provide down  
payment assistance  
for **14** people

**9** individuals returning

home from prison were  
housed

**15** Section 8 Vouchers  
allocated to justice-  
involved families



# SEAM

We housed three formerly incarcerated family households this quarter, by distributing \$2,725.00 in down payment, back rental and emergency assistance.



## “Mass Cass Court Watch”

Justice 4 Housing  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
Mass Bail Fund  
People Not Prisons Coalition  
Massachusetts Material Advocacy Program(MAAP)

Organizations rotated and witnessed the made up court, where Judge Tressler resided. We observed the criminalization of homelessness as the Boston Police and the Suffolk County Sheriff's office bullied and evicted vulnerable homeless people from their homes on Massachusetts Ave and Melnea Cass Blvd, aka Mass Cass, and threw them in jail just so the justice system and DOC could make a profit. Read our

[Re-sponse Letter](#)

## Programming

Stabilization Education  
Aware-ness Mentorship (SEAM)  
Program

We officially launched the Stabili-zation Education and Awareness Mentorship program. Cultivating each justice involved or formerly incarcerated women with communi-ty resources, organizing skills, tools and techniques needed to address housing discrimination and

## Legislation we support

### [Moratorium Bill](#)

An Act establishing a jail and prison construction moratorium

### [Jail based Voting Bill](#)

### [No Cost Calls Bill](#)

### [Video Part 1](#)

### [Video Part 2](#)

Leslie Credle and Bonnie Tenneriello, Esq., Prisoners Legal Services. Both were guests on the [Greater Boston Show](#); Host, Jim Braude, The interview entailed how Sheriff's in the Commonwealth are profiting off of minorities and low-income families who reside in the most incarcerated communities in the State. The Sheriff's received over 14 million in telephone kickbacks from phone vendors, such as Securis and GlobalTel. Leaving the families of incarcerated loved one's to pay for inflated per minute phone rates. Some rates are as high as [Solitary Confinement Bill](#)

## DONATE

**WE HAVE A GOAL OF 100,000 we still need your support.**

## Upcoming Events

**Report Revealing Symposium -  
March 2022**

[@Harvard University](#)

**Far From Home Campaign, 2022**

**HOD Trainings, February 2022**

**Initiative on Health and Homelessness  
Featuring Leslie Credle  
Decmeber 9, 2021**

## Past Events

Healing from Trauma & Defending Oneself Against Systems of Power  
Workshops  
June 8-29  
[Video](#)



Moratorium 70 Mile Walk to stop a New Women's prison from being built

## Grant Awards

- Borealis Foundation
- Greater Boston Real-estate
- Peace Institute
- Ben & Jerry's
- Chickering Foundation
- Peoples Fund

Featured in Criminal Justice Policy Coalition

[May 2021 News Letter](#)