



## Local Officials Human Services Council Who We Are and What We Do

In 1975 the Local Officials Human Services Council (LOHSC) was established to serve as the human services arm of the MMA. Founded with the understanding that municipal leaders are in a unique position to assess human needs in their communities and respond effectively, LOHSC

- Provides a coordinated response to federal and state policies impacting local human service delivery
- Enhances the effectiveness of local human service planning and programming, and
- Shares ideas and promotes cooperation among human service officials.

As part of the MMA, LOHSC is recognized as a strong voice in Massachusetts government for human services issues. LOHSC provides a resource for local officials who address these needs in their communities each and every day. In addition to monthly meetings on topics relevant to municipal human service providers and consultation with cities and towns related to human service issues, LOHSC enlists partners in the municipal sector in the following ways:

### **LOHSC sponsored MMA Annual Meeting Workshops include:**

- Hoarders: Increase Effectiveness, Decrease Costs (2014)
- Municipal Human Services: Helping All Ages Together (2013)
- Property Tax Relief Is Alive & Well (with MCOA, 2012)
- Community Partnerships: Creative Ways to Maximize Resources (2011)
- Funding Strategies in Challenging Times (2010)
- Staying Warm: The Challenges of Energy Programs (2009)
- The Boomers are Coming – The Boomers are Here: Challenges & Opportunities (2008)
- Homelessness: Best Practices and Your Community (2007)
- The Safety Net: How Does Your Community Measure Up? (2006)
- Youth Court: Best Practices in Prevention & Diversion (2005)
- How to Develop Human Service Capacity in Your City or Town (2003)
- Coordinating Basic Human Needs in Your Community (2002)

### **LOHSC Regional Workshops**

- Hoarding Basics (Norwood, May 2014)
- Working Together: Cross Disciplinary Interventions for Hoarding (Sturbridge, October 2013)
- Hoarding: What Municipalities Have learned from Teaming (Northborough, April 2013)

- Emergency Preparedness: What Have We Learned in the Last 2 Years? (Northborough, April 2012)
- Municipal Human Services: Helping All Ages Together (Sturbridge, Oct. 2011)
- Compulsive Hoarding: Collaboration – A Vital Component of Successful Intervention (Framingham, April 2011)
- Making Human Services Work (Taunton, October 2010)
- Youth Suicide Prevention: A Community Approach (Falmouth, April 2010)
- Funding Strategies in Challenging Times (Natick, November 2009)
- Inner Journey Home from War (Brockton, April 2009)
- Teen Substance Abuse: Taking Stock (Westborough, April 2008)
- Innovative Responses to Neighborhood Crime (Taunton, May 2007)
- The Safety Net: How Does Your Community Measure Up? (Bedford, Nov. 2005)
- Diversion Programs & Sentencing Options (Taunton, May 2005)
- Youth Court: Best Practices in Prevention & Diversion (Burlington, Oct. 2004)

#### **LOHSC Distinguished Service Award Winners**

- Mayor Scott Lang, New Bedford (2011)
- Human Services Director Peter Kirwin, Falmouth (2010)
- Commissioner John Auerbach, Dept. of Public Health (2009)
- Attorney General Martha Coakley (2007)
- Joseph P. Kennedy II, President, Citizens Energy Corp. (2006)
- Mayor Jack Yunits, Brockton (2005)
- Gov. Michael Dukakis (2004)

#### **LOHSC Distinguished Career Award Winners**

- Asst. City Manager Jill Herold, Cambridge (2004)

#### **LOHSC Representation at Regular Meetings and Task Forces**

- MMA Board and Local Government Advisory Commission (LGAC)
- MA Council on Aging Board of Directors and Advisory Council
- MA Council of Human Service Providers
- MA Youth Commissions
- EOHHS Task Forces including 2011 Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Advisory Committee and Statewide Youth Council