1. Where to find information on public/subsidized housing and vouchers in Massachusetts, including housing and immigrants. The best general resource is an MLRI publication called Legal Tactics: Finding Public and Subsidized Housing (3d Edition 2009) which is online at http://masslegalhelp.org/housing/immigrants-and-housing. Chapter 9 covers housing and immigrants.

2. There are several different kinds of public and subsidized housing and vouchers- each with different rules affecting applicants and occupants. These programs are explained in Chapter 1 of Legal Tactics (Housing Programs in Massachusetts).

3. For immigration purposes, the basic housing program categories are:

- **State** public housing, MRVP vouchers and state-financed multifamily housing
  
  Generally open to all immigrants regardless of status

- **Federal** public housing, Section 8 vouchers and multifamily housing
  
  In most federal housing programs, assistance can only be provided to citizens and “eligible noncitizens”. If entire household is not eligible, they will not be admitted to most federal housing.
For admission to most **federal** housing, an “**eligible noncitizen**” is:

- A lawful permanent resident
- A registry immigrant (admitted for permanent residency by U.S. Attorney General & eligible for citizenship
- A refugee or asyllee
- A conditional entrant
- A parolee
- A withholding grantee
- A person granted 1986 amnesty status
- A resident of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau or Guam
- A victim of trafficking or relatives of such victim
- VAWA self-identified is now also counted as eligible

In federal programs “**mixed families**” are those with at least one citizen or eligible noncitizen. Mixed families may be admitted to most federal housing – but they will pay a higher rent (called a pro-rated rent) and unit may not be affordable.

Some of the smaller federal programs have no immigration restrictions.

### 4. Social Security Numbers

- **State housing**: Generally each household member must provide a SSN. **However**, by notice from DHCD, no one can be denied or otherwise sanctioned if they do not have a SSN.

- **Federal housing**: Generally each household member must provide a SSN. However, this does not apply to those immigrants in “mixed families” who do not claim to be either citizens or eligible noncitizens.