



MLPB

ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

November 2020



Status of Eviction Moratorium Protections

Federal Eviction Moratorium Protection for eligible renters currently expires 12/31/2020:

- At-risk renters who meet the requirements spelled out in the [CDC notice](#) can sign and share [this declaration](#) with their landlord.
- The declaration has been translated into multiple languages. More information [here](#).
- The protection applies to new and already-filed evictions so long as the tenant completes the declaration.
- If landlords fail to comply with the moratorium, there are criminal penalties enforceable by the Department of Justice.
- Tenants are encouraged to make partial payments to their landlords.
- Tenants can still be evicted for reasons other than nonpayment of rent.

Note re: Massachusetts tenants at risk of eviction:

- The state eviction moratorium expired on Oct. 17, 2020.
- Rental Relief: The Commonwealth launched a [COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Initiative](#) with supports for both tenants and landlords. Check out Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

Note re: Rhode Island tenants at risk of eviction:

- Limited eviction defense is available through [RI Legal Services](#) and the [RI Center for Justice](#).

- **Safe Harbor Housing Program** offers tenants a solution outside of the court system by supporting them to create a payment plan with their landlord. To apply, tenants or landlords can visit [United Way RI's website](#).
- **HomeSafe** rental assistance fund is open and a common application can be found [here](#); this is a one-time grant of financial assistance for families experiencing housing instability.
- **WeRI program** supports those unable to access benefits due to immigration status.

Status of Foreclosure Moratorium Protections

Federal Foreclosure Moratorium for eligible single-family homeowners currently expires 12/31/2020:

- *FHA-insured single-family homes*: More information on the FHA loan moratorium can be found [here](#).
- *Single-family, VA-guaranteed loans*. The moratorium protects against the initiation and completion of foreclosures. More information about the VA loan moratorium can be found [here](#).
- *USDA-insured (rural), single-family homes*. The moratorium protects against the initiation and completion of foreclosures. More information for homeowners with USDA loans can be found [here](#).
- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are offering a 12-month forbearance on mortgages. Homeowners can check if their mortgage is owned by [Fannie Mae](#) or [Freddie Mac](#) online.
- Ineligible homeowners who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 (or otherwise) are encouraged to contact their lender to request a forbearance, a payment plan, or other resources that are available.

MLPB will continue to monitor eviction- and foreclosure-related developments and provide updates to communities of care. For additional up-to-date information, check out the *On Our Mind* content at the end of this newsletter and MLPB's [Digital Digest](#)!

New Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Benefits in MA

Massachusetts soon will join other states in providing eligible workers with a new kind of paid benefit - one especially supportive of new parents and caregivers.

This benefit was created by state law and is broader than federal FMLA (Family & Medical Leave Act) protections. Eligible workers in the Commonwealth may be entitled to the following:

As of Jan. 1, 2021:

- Up to 20 weeks of paid leave for an employee's own serious health condition;
- Up to 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child; and
- Up to 26 weeks of paid leave to care for a family member in the armed services who has a serious health condition.

As of July 1, 2021:

- Up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

Want more information to support effective planning and problem-solving with individuals and families working in MA?

Check out this helpful [PFML fact sheet](#) and [workplace poster](#), generated by the new [Department of Family and Medical Leave](#).



Anti-Racism & Health

- [New AMA Policy Recognizes Racism as a Public Health Threat](#) (*American Medical Association*, Nov. 16, 2020)
- [Hate-Motivated Behavior: Impacts, Risk Factors, and Interventions](#) (*Health Affairs*, Nov. 9, 2020)
- [Getting Our Knees Off Black People's Necks: An Anti-Racist Approach to Medical Care](#) (*Health Affairs*, Nov. 4, 2020)
- [COVID-19 And Health Disparities: Insights From Key Informant Interviews](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 27, 2020)
- [The Black Lives Next Door](#) (*The New York Times*, Aug. 14, 2020)

Care Delivery & Financing Transformation

- [Rhode Islanders Weigh In on the Factors Shaping Public Health](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Nov. 16, 2020)
- ['These Inequities Are Heartbreaking': AG Healey Urges Action on Health Care Disparities](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Nov. 16, 2020)
- [Indiana's Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver and Interagency Coordination Improve Enrollment For Justice-Involved Adults](#) (*Health Affairs*, Nov. 2020) (*subscription required*)
- [Recognizing Frailties In How We Measure Health and Health Care — And Charting a Pandemic-Resistant Path Forward](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 9, 2020)
- [Misunderstood: How Public Health's Inability To Communicate Keeps Communities Unhealthy](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 8, 2020)

Digital Equity & Utility Needs

- [Too Many Rural Americans Are Living In the Digital Dark. The Problem Demands a New Deal Solution](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 28, 2020)
- [Assessing Efforts to Ensure Equitable Access to Broadband Services that Support Public Health](#) (*Network for Public Health Law*, Oct. 8, 2020)

Early Childhood

- [Connecting the Dots: Improving Child Care Workers' Conditions Leads to Better Health, Economic Stability, and Greater Equity](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 20, 2020)
- [Measuring Equity From the Start: Disparities In the Health Development of US Kindergartners](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 2020) (*subscription required*)
- [Children and the Opioid Epidemic: Age-Stratified Exposures and Harms](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 2020) (*subscription required*)
- [What We Say and What We Do: Why US Investments in Children's Health Are Falling Short](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 2020) (*subscription required*)

Economic Inclusion & Employment

- [Strengthening Family Caregiving Policies and Programs Through State Collaboration](#) (*Health Affairs*, Nov. 12, 2020)
- [A Business Case for Improving the Well-Being of Essential Shift Workers](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Oct. 28, 2020)
- [Chelsea is About to Become the Country's Biggest Experiment in Giving Out No-Strings-Attached Checks](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Oct. 17, 2020)
- [COVID-19-s Impact on Older Workers: Employment, Income, and Medicare Spending](#) (*Commonwealth Fund*, Oct. 2020)

Housing

- [Beyond Shelter: Sustaining Public Housing Communities Before and After a Pandemic](#) (*Boston Bar Journal*, Nov. 18, 2020)
- [Better Housing Improves People's Lives — Health Benefits Should Be Seen as a Bonus](#) (*Milbank Quarterly*, Nov. 12, 2020)
- [The Pandemic Has Exacerbated Housing Instability for Renters of Color](#) (*Center for American Progress*, Oct. 30, 2020)
- [Judge Blocks Trump's Bid to Loosen Housing Discrimination Law — For Now](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Oct. 26, 2020)
- [When Falling Behind on Rent Leads to Jail Time](#) (*ProPublica*, Oct. 26, 2020)
- [Delays and Debt Mount as State Rent Relief Program Strains to Meet Demand](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Oct. 24, 2020)
- [In the Nation's Asthma Capital, Plans to Burn Wood for Energy Spark Fury](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Oct. 20, 2020)
- [Can't Make Rent, Can't Get Evicted](#) (*Marketplace*, Oct. 1, 2020)

Immigration

- [Undocumented and Pregnant: Why Women are Afraid to Get Prenatal Care](#) (*The New York Times*, Nov. 22, 2020)
- [Spreading Fear: The Announcement of the Public Charge Rule Reduced Enrollment in Child Safety-Net Programs](#) (*Health Affairs*, Oct. 2020) (*subscription required*)

LGBTQAI+ Health

- [In Boston, Councilors Propose Gender-Inclusive City Forms and Certificates](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Nov. 16, 2020)

MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving strategies that disrupt the evolution of a person's social, economic, or environmental need into a legal — and health — crisis.

Through training, consultation and technical assistance, we help workforce partners understand their unique capacities to *unlock access* to a range of health-promoting benefits, services, and legal protections — thereby advancing health equity.

MLPB is a fiscally sponsored program of [TSNE MissionWorks](#).

Information contained in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship.

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