



Dear On Solid Ground Coalition,

This month has been a time for reflection and planning for the year ahead. We held our annual retreat of the Steering Committee, welcomed four new members to our Family Liaison Group, released two new reports, and welcomed [FamilyAid Boston](#) as the newest member to our Coalition. Read on for all of the exciting details!

Also a reminder that our Full Coalition Meeting is coming up on November 9th. Join us at EMPATH from 9.30 am to 11.00 pm for a lively discussion with Workforce Solutions on data quality bill and its relevance to workforce development.

Thank you very much for your support and hard work!

-The On Solid Ground Team

On Solid Ground Steering Committee Retreat: Commitment to Being Reflective, Bold, and Accountable

On October 20, the Steering Committee embarked on a day-long retreat to plan our research and legislative strategy for next year, our 4th year of implementation. The uniqueness of our Coalition is that we embark on cross-sector, research-informed, and family centered approach to program and policy change.

Senior Project Manager Marija Bingulac set the intention of the retreat with three words: reflective, bold, and accountable. We **reflected** on our major accomplishments so far, including having two staff members, a clear research agenda, and seven bills that we filed. We also celebrated that 92.5% of our members stated that they were satisfied with our work in ensuring access to housing stability and economic mobility for families. We were brave in our discussion of the work that we still have to do and have committed to a creation of an equity framework to ensure our Coalition remains meaningfully rooted in needs of the communities and conducts our work in partnership with the communities. In order to make us accountable for the issues



we committed to at the retreat, we are working on using the data gathered at the retreat to sharpen our action plan for year 4. We look forward to updating you on our progress!

Reports on Family Homelessness by Homes for Families

Our Executive Committee Member, Homes for Families published two new reports (part of a series of four) to inform the next steps in addressing family homelessness in the Commonwealth.



[Family Experiences of Homelessness in Massachusetts: The Case for Family Centered Care](#) highlights key data from a survey administered to families in the Emergency Assistance (EA) program.

[Evidence Based Stabilization: A Solution to Reduce Family Homelessness in Massachusetts](#) reviews national research about systemic and programmatic

responses to family homelessness. The paper concludes by recommending an assessment and evidence based stabilization model be implemented across the Commonwealth.

Family Liaisons Group Is Growing

On October 19th, On solid Ground and Homes for Families hosted the second OSG Family Liaison Orientation. We are excited to welcome 4 new, On Solid Ground Family Liaisons. These new partners bring necessary and valuable expertise through lived experience with housing instability and cliff effect which will drive and shape the work of the OSG coalition. We are excited to be partnering with our new liaisons and we know their participation will strengthen our work.

Exciting events

Our Executive Board Member, Citizen's Housing And Planning Association is hosting their 50th Anniversary Dinner on today. This event will commemorate shared accomplishments of CHAPA over the past 50 years and opportunities for continued collaboration!



New Member of the Coalition

We are very proud to welcome our newest Coalition member, [FamilyAid Boston!](#) FamilyAid Boston provides families with shelter and help them access support services, find housing, and

work towards a better life. We are so grateful to be able to include this organization to our work.

The On Solid Ground Coalition (OSG), led by the Executive Committee made up of the Center for Social Policy (CSP), Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), and Homes for Families (HFF), is a cross-sector group of 40+ partners committed to a research-based, family-centered approach to ensuring access to housing stability and economic mobility for families living in Massachusetts. Our vision is that Massachusetts families have safe, stable homes in communities of their choice and opportunities for economic mobility and wellness. Through its four-prong approach the Coalition advocates for: 1) advancement of system coordination and efficiency; 2) increasing resources and opportunities for affordable housing; 3) improved access to support services for families; 4) the tracking and reporting of progress to measure social impact.