

MEMBERSHIP MONDAY:

Wellspring House

Highlighting Wellspring House' Impact on the Community

At the Providers' Council, we are proud to highlight the impactful work of our members who are strengthening communities across the Commonwealth. This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Wellspring House, a regional nonprofit organization on the North Shore with a mission to inspire families and adults to achieve employment and financial security through stable housing, education, job training and career readiness. Through their holistic, wrap-around approach, and a range of services, Wellspring works to promote long-term self-sufficiency in the communities it serves.

Who is Wellspring House and What Do They Do?

Founded in 1981 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, Wellspring was one of the first nonprofits in the Commonwealth to offer a physical home as a family shelter where parents and children could start to recover from homelessness. In our first 25 years, we focused on generating housing opportunities to help families achieve long-term stability. Up through 2006, we partnered with landowners to establish more than 10 properties with 140 housing units. Since the early 2000s, Wellspring has emphasized job training, education, and career advising to help people aged 17 up to 55+ attain secure jobs with living wages. We see the exceedingly high cost of living as an urgent threat to community health and stability.

Today, Wellspring employs a strategy that is rare amongst our peers. We maintain core offerings of shelter and crisis intervention while deploying housing and community resources expertise within the context of job training and career advising to help job seekers get ahead. This means that every year 1,400 families and young adults across 20 cities and towns on Massachusetts' North Shore have the best opportunity to achieve true financial security and a healthy quality of life.

Program Areas:

Wellspring's programs are interconnected, deepening the impact for young adults, adults and families as they accomplish incremental milestones towards increased financial security.

1. Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, and Housing— Wellspring's Family Shelter helps families who become homeless find housing and get their lives back on track. Our Homelessness Prevention Line takes 900 calls annually from families experiencing housing crises and provides service referrals and one-time cash grants. Our Family Stabilization Program provides up to 24 months of support to help 135 families avoid homelessness annually.

2. Education, Job Training and Career Advising — Wellspring helps 400 young adult and adult students each year improve their skills, confidence, and future job prospects. We offer a full spectrum of English for Speakers of Other Languages classes; computer literacy courses; High School Equivalency Testing; a job training partnership with two major health care systems; and individualized career advising for high school students. As a result, participants move their lives forward to steady jobs with increasing wages over time.



Over the past year, Wellspring has strengthened its impact across all programs, serving 1,430 young adults, adults, and families through a suite of interconnected programs. This includes emergency shelter for 17 families and homelessness prevention and stabilization support for 135 families. Staff fielded 900 calls from parents seeking help with rent and connected them to essential community resources. Among families engaged in homelessness prevention programs for a year or more, 98% remained stably housed.

Wellspring also advanced its workforce development efforts, providing healthcare job training and career advising to 96 adults, with 89% completing training and 85% securing higher-wage employment. Homelessness prevention services were also integrated directly into these programs to strengthen participants' long-term financial security. Wellspring academic and career advisors worked with nearly 80 Gloucester High School seniors, 40% of the graduating class. In follow-up interviews, 85% of these students confirmed that they have viable educational and or employment plans for their first year beyond high school. In Wellspring's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program which serves 135 adults each year, students were supplied with laptops to own, wifi hotspots and IT support to improve digital access for education and employment opportunities.



When Did Wellspring House Join The Providers' Council and Why?

Wellspring House became a Provider Member of the Providers' Council in 2023 to take advantage of the Providers' Council skilled advocacy, professional development resources, and a network of organizations working collectively to advance equitable, high-quality human services across Massachusetts. As a newer member organization, Wellspring House brings important perspective and impact through its longstanding work within the Commonwealth's Emergency Assistance shelter network, and its slate of programs aimed to help parents and young adults increase their skills and earning potential.



A voice from Wellspring House

It means a lot to Wellspring to work within an interdisciplinary network of peer organizations across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It's how we learn and grow with the benefit of best practices and forward-thinking innovations. Being a member of the Providers Council helps us to achieve a greater level of excellence.

– Melissa Dimond, President and Executive Director



Looking Ahead: Wellspring House' Continued Commitment to Support and Innovation

As part of its 5-year Strategic Plan through 2028, Wellspring is especially focused on partnering with regional employers and educational institutions to bring our holistic model of support to workers, students and graduates across the North Shore region. The purpose is to ensure progress and momentum for families and young adults on their journeys to remain stably housed while pursuing jobs with higher wages. As Wellspring House continues to deepen its impact on the North Shore, the Providers' Council looks forward to supporting the organization through ongoing advocacy, education, and opportunities for collaboration across the human services sector. Together, we remain committed to advancing policies and practices that strengthen communities, expand access to stable housing, and support individuals and families in need across Massachusetts.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Wellspring House, their programs and services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers' Council.

[Providers' Council](#)

[Wellspring House](#)