



Campaign for Housing,  
Education and Jobs

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## **Homes for Families Visioning Day** *An opportunity to Elevate the Focus on Children*

Homes for Families is a statewide organization that works in partnership with families, shelter and service providers, policy makers, researchers, and advocacy groups to address homelessness in the Commonwealth. Visioning Day is an annual convening of these stakeholders. The **Children's' Program** is a critical component of the Visioning Day tradition.

**Objectives:** The objectives of Visioning Day are to share policy updates with families and shelter providers; and to engage in solution focused dialogue – *across stakeholders* - to strengthen the Commonwealth's response to family homelessness and housing instability. The day honors the leadership and insights of parents.

The objectives of the **Children's' Program** are to:

- Create a safe, fun, and playful environment for children living in shelters across MA to engage in meaningful play with caring adults, while allowing parents to fully participate in the day
- Raise awareness about family – and child – homelessness through the solicitation of donations, recruitment of volunteers, press and outreach about the event, and inclusion in the event report

**Format:** Visioning Day is held from 9:30 am-2:30pm, and includes breakout groups, panel presentations, table discussions, voting, table activities, feedback forms, and an award presentation

The **Children's' Program** has:

- Distinct rooms for young children (age 4 and under) and older children
- Age based groups rotating through a variety of activity stations in the morning and an afternoon movie
- Snacks and lunch provided
- Pre-registration forms, check in and check-out procedures, and release forms
- Support and participation from shelter staff and Homes for Families liaisons

**Participants:** Visioning Day is attended by between 250-350 adults; in 2016 presenters included Deputy Undersecretaries of the Department of Housing and Community Development and Department of Education, as well as Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners from the of the Health and Human Services Departments.

**Outcomes:** The outcomes of Visioning Day include:

- Increased understanding of policies that impact families who are homeless
- A *Visioning Day* report which includes acknowledgements, a summary of the event, and core recommendations developed collectively by participants. The report is shared with the Administration, the Legislature, and over 60 partner organizations
- Clear guidelines for prioritizing policy decisions relative to family homelessness
- Recognition of leadership, the power of the family voice and unified stakeholders, and a shared responsibility to address family homelessness in the Commonwealth

The outcomes of the **Children's' Program** include:

- a day of fun and new friendships for children in shelters
- a day if fun and new friendships for volunteers, increasing their understanding of how homelessness impacts children and opportunities to make a positive impact

## **Seeking Volunteers for the Visioning Day 2017 Kid's Program**

Thursday, August 10, 2017

9am – 3pm

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

Homes for Families, a state wide advocacy organization that works to end family homelessness, is seeking volunteers to support our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Visioning Day event to be held on August 10, 2017 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

Visioning Day provides families experiencing homelessness, nonprofit organizations, policy makers and the public with the rare opportunity to come together as equals to identify problems and develop permanent solutions to family homelessness in Massachusetts.

**We are in need of over 40 volunteers to help make Visioning Day a success by spending time and having a blast with this event's youngest attendees in the Visioning Day Kid's Program!** Last year over 100 homeless and formerly homeless children attended Visioning Day and we need your help! This year we expect as many or more children in attendance! Our goal is to provide kids with a safe and fun experience.

Please know that volunteering for the Visioning Day Kid's Program is much more than giving a day of your time; it is an investment in permanent solutions to the root causes of family homelessness. Your investment will enable homeless and formerly homeless moms and dads to attend Visioning Day and make their voices heard. Without this kid's program, many parents will not be able to attend and participate. Your investment makes our mission possible!

We hope that we can count on you to volunteer and support our efforts as we work in collaboration with families, providers, communities and the state to end family homelessness in Massachusetts. Please fill out the attached form and return it to [jmoriar2@bates.edu](mailto:jmoriar2@bates.edu) or fax it to 617-523-1553. If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Moriarty at 413-218-7410.

We look forward to seeing you at Visioning Day!

Like us on [Facebook](#) for the latest news and follow us on [Twitter](#)!

# 2017 Visioning Day

## Kid's Program Volunteer Interest Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

What city in Massachusetts do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

In the past year how often did you interact/work with kids?

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Hardly Ever ☐

Never ☐

If you have experience, please describe/explain your experience working with kids:

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Have you been CORI checked?   Yes ☐   No ☐

**Organization Affiliation (if applicable):**

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Please return this form to Jessie Moriarty at [jmoriar2@bates.edu](mailto:jmoriar2@bates.edu) or fax to 617-523-1553. Please feel free to email Jessie or call her at 413-218-7410 with any questions!