

Erin Walker, Corcoran Summer Intern from Boston College, Completes Summer Internship at Metro Housing



Erin Walker, a junior at Boston College, recently completed an internship at Metro Housing. Erin was selected as a Corcoran Summer Intern, a program sponsored by the [Joseph E. Corcoran Center for Real Estate and Urban Action](#) at Boston College.

Erin worked on the SNO Mass (Supporting Neighborhood Opportunity in Massachusetts) team within the Leased Housing division. The SNO Mass team works to support and facilitate the moves of very low-income families with school-aged children that hold housing vouchers into EOHLIC designated areas of high and very high opportunity. These areas are characterized by their strong public-school systems and nurturing environments which provide a strong foundation for newcomers to succeed in these areas.

Erin was focused on the work, and any additional tasks that were presented to her, with enthusiasm and an openness to learning new things,” said Cheyenne Engle, SNO Mass Program Manager. “She was also keenly interested in how the Section 8 vouchers are administered and how they impact the lives of the people we serve. It was a pleasure having her on our team for the summer.”

“Erin is enthusiastic, personable, and was intensely focused on having as high of an impact as possible with the SNO Mass team this summer,” said Taylor Perkins, Associate Director of the Corcoran Center. “The experience with Metro Housing helped her grow not only as a professional, but also as a person. She built confidence and problem-solving skills that will support her both in the classroom and in her future professional endeavors.”

During her time at Metro Housing, Erin worked directly with participating SNO Mass families on all sides of the housing process, as Metro Housing Boston continues to support families years after they are placed in their new areas of residence.

Erin managed outreach programs through various marketing channels in which she reached over 500 landlords with properties in EOHLIC designated areas of opportunity to promote awareness of SNO Mass. Throughout her work this summer at MHB, Erin was able to learn about the fundamental role the Federal and State governments play in the policy behind housing. She was especially shocked to learn that the wait for a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher in Massachusetts is currently about 10-14 years long. For families with school-aged children, this is far too long a time to have to wait to move. There is still a monumental amount of process and policy-based work left to be done within this field, and Erin hopes to eventually be able to help enact some of this necessary change.

Joseph Corcoran, for whom the Center is named, was instrumental in helping Metro Housing move to its new headquarters in 2017. His generosity helped Metro Housing further its mission of providing a welcoming and comfortable place for families in need of assistance with housing stability.