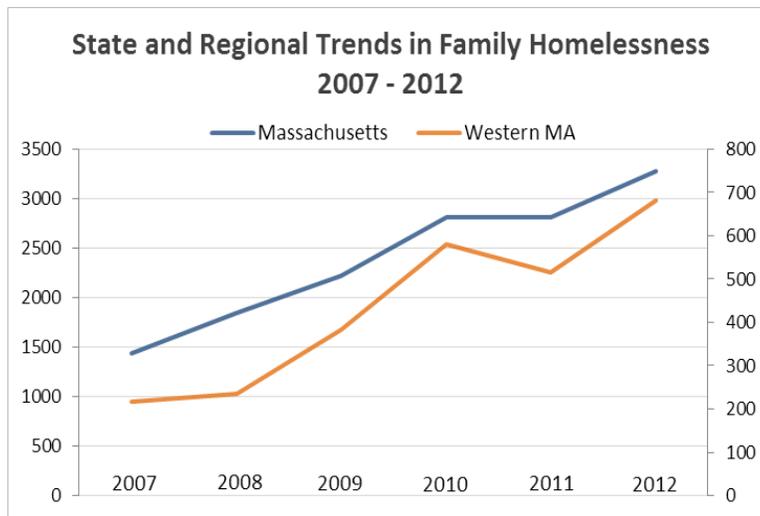


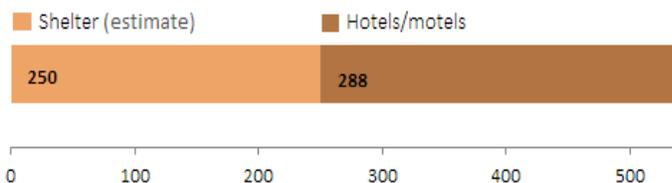
An ongoing crisis: Homelessness among Western Massachusetts families

Homelessness among Western Massachusetts families has risen sharply since the onset of the Great Recession. Targeted interventions, like Secure Jobs Connect, can halt and even reverse this trend.

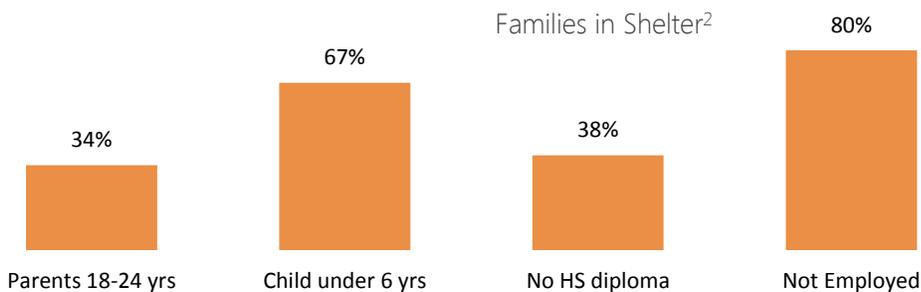
Thankfully, the number of homeless families has been decreasing recently, as a result of efforts to move families out of hotels and into housing. But there are still too many homeless families in our region, many of whom are eager to work.



Today there are more than **500 families** who are homeless in Western Massachusetts.¹



Economic self sufficiency is the scaffolding on which stable housing and healthy families are built. But jobs have been scarce, and the barriers high.



\$3,117 Monthly income needed to afford a 2 BR apt in most of Western MA³

\$500 Typical monthly income of Western MA families who are homeless

Secure Jobs Connect helps Western MA parents overcome these barriers, find good jobs, and achieve stable housing. For more information: sjc@partnersforcommunity.org.

1. Based on DHCDs EA Hotels Report 2-26-13 and shelter utilization estimate. 2. Workforce Action Plan for Homeless Families Data Report by the Donahue Institute 9-2013. 3. Calculation from the NLIHC Housing Wage Calculator.

Secure Jobs Connect fulfills the vision of our Workforce Development Action Plan.

During 2011 the Network challenged its stakeholders to imagine what an effective workforce development initiative, targeted to homeless and at-risk parents, would look like in Western Massachusetts. The ideas and strategies that emerged were crafted into an Action Plan by the skilled hands of the UMass Donahue Institute.

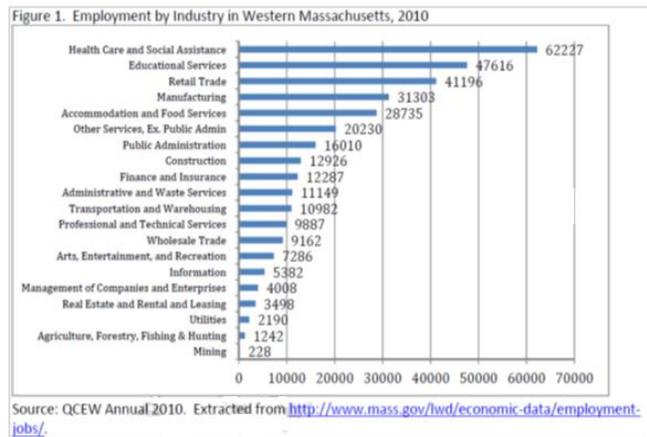
Secure Jobs Connect will help us to realize the full potential of the plan as key recommendations are operationalized.

Recommended: The development of a pilot program to serve a limited number of families.

1. Establish an employment advocate position: Homeless families with multiple barriers to employment require assistance across multiple
2. Increase coordination among service agencies: Workforce providers have experience providing job search and training resources and relationships with employers; shelter providers have a deep understanding of the multiple barriers to work that homeless families face.
3. Develop opportunities for employment: Traditional employment services rely heavily on relationships with employers to both secure and sustain employment.

UMASS DONAHUE INSTITUTE

Getting to Work:
An Integrated Approach to Workforce Achievement for Western Massachusetts Homeless Families



Secure Jobs Connect has a wide array of partners throughout the region. Services will be accessed initially through funded partners - the Corporation for Public Management, CareerPoint, and ServiceNet - and through regional HomeBASE providers including Berkshire Regional Housing Authority, Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Center for Human Development, HAP Housing, and New England Farm Workers' Council.



HomeBASE provider



Secure Jobs Connect site