

Support for Tenants at Risk – STAR

What is the STAR Program?

STAR (Support for Tenants at Risk) is a voluntary program for low-income Cambridge tenants facing eviction who are:

- Disabled (or have someone in the household who is disabled); or
- Behind on rent and need temporary financial assistance to keep their housing.

The STAR program is designed to help tenants preserve their housing by providing services and resources.

The STAR clinician located at the Cambridge District Court on Thursdays works for Eliot Community Human Services, a large non-profit social services agency, and is part of a larger team of Cambridge-based service providers that is designed to help tenants remain housed.

Who can refer a case to STAR?

- ⇒ Any party (landlord or tenant) of a summary process (eviction) case
- ⇒ A representative of any party to the case, including people from non-profit organizations.

Am I Eligible for STAR?

In order to be eligible for STAR, you must:

- Live in Cambridge;
- Have received a Summary Process Summons and Complaint (eviction); and
- Have income below a certain level (see table below).

Your Income Must Be Below:

Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$1,654
2	\$1,888
3	\$2,125
4	\$2,358
5	\$2,550

To find out if you are eligible, speak to the STAR clinician at Cambridge District Court.

Behind on Rent and Need Help?

The STAR clinician may refer you to the Cambridge Multi-Service Center to determine if you are eligible for financial assistance.

How does STAR work?

STAR staff meets with a tenant rapidly after a referral. Referrals may occur at the courthouse on the date of a hearing OR referrals may be made in advance of the court date.

STAR staff will assess the underlying causes of the lease problem(s) and based on the issues will:

- ⇒ Work directly with the tenant(s) to help address the problem related to the eviction, with the goal of preserving the tenancy. The STAR clinician may develop and monitor a service plan until the tenancy is stabilized.
- ⇒ Provide a referral for financial assistance or free legal representation, where appropriate.
- ⇒ If the current housing can not be preserved, the STAR staff will develop a plan with a service provider to assist in securing more appropriate housing.

STAR's goal is to preserve the current tenancy or, when necessary, arrange for a housing search and services to prevent homelessness.

STAR CONTACT INFORMATION

Miriam Greenburg

LCSW

Cambridge STAR

Court Clinician

Telephone: 781-879-8208

Email: mgreenburg@eliotchs.org

Hours:

Monday-8:30-4:30

Thursday-8:30-4:30

Friday: 8:00-12:00

OTHER STAR BENEFITS

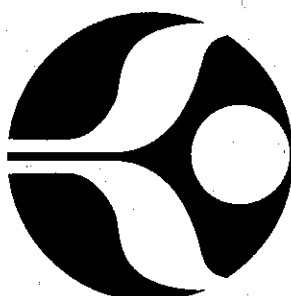
The STAR Clinician may assist tenants with referrals for:

- ⇒ Drug/Alcohol Counseling
- ⇒ Housekeeping Services
- ⇒ Home Health Aides
- ⇒ Crisis Intervention
- ⇒ Medical Treatment
- ⇒ Mental Health Counseling
- ⇒ Alternative Housing Search

STAR may also assist tenants in determining eligibility and applying for:

- ⇒ MassHealth
- ⇒ Welfare Benefits
- ⇒ Social Security/Disability Benefits
- ⇒ Subsidized Housing
- ⇒ Rental Assistance

ELIOT COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES



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The STAR Program

Support for Tenants at Risk

Designed to assist tenants in preserving their tenancies by identifying problems and securing services and resources specific and appropriate to their needs.

**A Program of The Eliot Homeless
Services Division**