

July 2021

# abcd INSIGHT

Monthly News & Updates



HEAD START IS HIRING!

**Great career.**  
**AMAZING benefits.**

**ABCD seeks early ed teachers, staff who want to make a difference, pursue a fulfilling career**

*Signing bonuses, paid training & development, and a pathway to leadership attract current and future educators*

As Greater Boston continues to rebuild and reopen after the pandemic brought much of life to a standstill, ABCD is recruiting early education teachers and staff who are looking for a clear path to a fulfilling career.

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**I am SO ready for Head Start!**

**ABCD Head Start and Early Head Start: Now enrolling!**

Calling all families with children from birth to age 5 who are ready to learn and grow – who are ready for a Head Start. This successful program gives income-eligible families access to quality early education and comprehensive services including health, dental, nutrition and family services.

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY**

**ABCD urges families in need to sign up for assistance with food, rent, other essentials at ABCD Neighborhood Centers**

ABCD is all about access: the organization's community-based network of centers

throughout Boston and Mystic Valley ensures that individuals and families experiencing financial strain and in need of vital resources can find the help they need without traveling far.

And despite signs of economic recovery in Massachusetts, tens of thousands of disadvantaged people in Greater Boston are behind on their bills and in distress.

**Help is here.** ABCD staff members are ready to assist with urgent needs, empowering youth programs, vital elder services, longer-term avenues to financial stability including education and job training, and more.

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## ABCD helps families in crisis pay past-due heating bills, urges extension of shut-off moratorium

As Greater Boston endures tropical weather patterns, from balmy days to torrential downpours, it’s easy to forget that the winter of 2020 – 2021 brought frigid temperatures at a time when many had lost jobs due to the pandemic. Heating bills spiked as families tried to stay healthy and warm.

“The economic fallout of the pandemic has been severe for our most vulnerable neighbors. Through no fault of their own, many are out of work or their income has plummeted. They’re struggling to pay rent, feed their children, and heat their homes,” said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew.

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In response, Mr. Drew called for an extension to the shutoff moratorium, which the [Boston Globe](#) published on July 15, 2021.

Learn more about ABCD’s Energy Services [here](#).

## ABCD Hosts Second Successful Vaccination Clinic



ABCD held its second successful vaccine clinic on July 13th, with great turnout at the Thelma D. Burns building in Roxbury. ABCD is urging everyone to get vaccinated to stop the further spread of COVID-19, and protect our communities, families, and coworkers from the virus. If you'd like more information about the available vaccines, check out ABCD’s [COVID-19 Vaccine Info page](#). To find a vaccination site near you, visit [vaxfinder.mass.gov](#).

## ABCD’s signature summer jobs program helps youth chart a promising path, prepare for school this fall

After more than a year of isolation and hardship brought on by the pandemic, underserved youth in Boston are developing the skills and confidence to succeed when they’re back in the classroom this fall.

ABCD SummerWorks is partnering with more than 100 mission-driven employers to provide youngsters with career readiness workshops, mentoring, and earnings of up to \$1,600 from jobs that give back to the community.

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*ABCD SummerWorks participant Francheska shares her experience.*







## Thank you, Klarman Family Foundation

ABCD thanks the Klarman Family Foundation for its support of SummerWorks, a program that provides underserved Boston youth career development mentoring and workshops and a paid job that gives back to the community! ABCD SummerWorks had a positive impact on Takai, a young man from Dorchester with a focus on the future. [Watch now.](#)

## At YEA! Middle Schoolers Become Leaders

YEA! – ABCD’s Youth Engaged in Action! program – wrapped up its second and final session of the summer in July. This program introduces eligible 13-year-olds introduces to people, resources, and powerful experiences that help them become young leaders. During the week-long session, these middle-schoolers learn how government works, explore opportunities to take action in their communities, and learn about the importance of financial wellbeing.

This year, State Representatives **Chynah Tyler** and **Steven Ultrino**, Boston City Councilor **Kenzie Bok**, and **Audrey Seraphin** of SPARK Boston spoke to the participants about civic engagement and helping to envision and build a better future. Thank you to our guest speakers as well as YEA! program sponsors, **Capital One** and **Junior Achievement of Northern New England** for making this learning adventure a success. We hope to see all our participants return to ABCD for SummerWorks next year!

## Photo Flashback: Field of Dreams 2021

Last month at ABCD’s 22nd Annual Field of Dreams, generous corporate donors assembled their teams for a game of softball at Fenway Park. **Mass General Brigham, Ropes & Gray, Shields Health Care Group, DMB Financial, Slalom**, and the **Boston All-Stars** – drafted by **NESN’s Tom Caron** – along with some individual gifts helped ABCD raise an impressive \$150,000 for SummerWorks. This successful summer jobs program provides young people in Boston with a paid job experience and sets them on the path toward a successful career.

The day wouldn’t have been possible without the **Boston Red Sox**, represented by President & CEO **Sam Kennedy**. NESN’s **Adam Pellerin** gave of his time to serve as emcee.

[Check out the Facebook album](#), and don’t forget to follow us for the latest news and updates from ABCD.



## Presenting the Ostiguy High and University High School 2021 Graduates

Congratulations Class of 2021! In June we celebrated the graduating classes of William J. Ostiguy Recovery High School and University High School, which ABCD operates in partnership with the Boston Public Schools. Ostiguy High School provides students in recovery with a safe, sober learning environment, while University High School helps students who have struggled in a traditional learning environment earn their high school



diploma and embrace the future.

At their graduations, students shared truly inspiring stories. Watch these video recaps to hear what they had to say on their graduation day.



*Ostiguy Recovery High School Honors its 2021 Graduates*



*ABCD's University High School Honors its 2021 Graduates*



**Theresa Parks, passionate housing activist and ABCD community hero, dies at 84**

She was humble, but she was fierce. Theresa Parks, who led a movement to preserve affordable housing in her beloved Mission Hill neighborhood, passed away last month. ABCD, which recognized her with a community hero award for her tireless advocacy, worked alongside her for decades. Read the [Boston Globe story](#) about the spirit and legacy of Mrs. Parks.



**MASSACHUSETTS VIRTUAL  
JOB FAIR**

**5-DAYS!**  
**AUGUST 16 – 20**  
**10AM – 2PM**

**Monday, August 16** General Job Fair (all industries)

**Tuesday, August 17** Manufacturing, Professional Services, Finance

**Wednesday, August 18** Healthcare, Hospitality, Education

**Thursday, August 19** General Job Fair (all industries)

**Friday, August 20** Information Technology, Building Services, and other

*Questions? Please contact your local MassHire Career Center [here](#).*

**Register Now**



**Check out our Facebook  
Album**

## Enter to win! Massachusetts launches VaxMillions

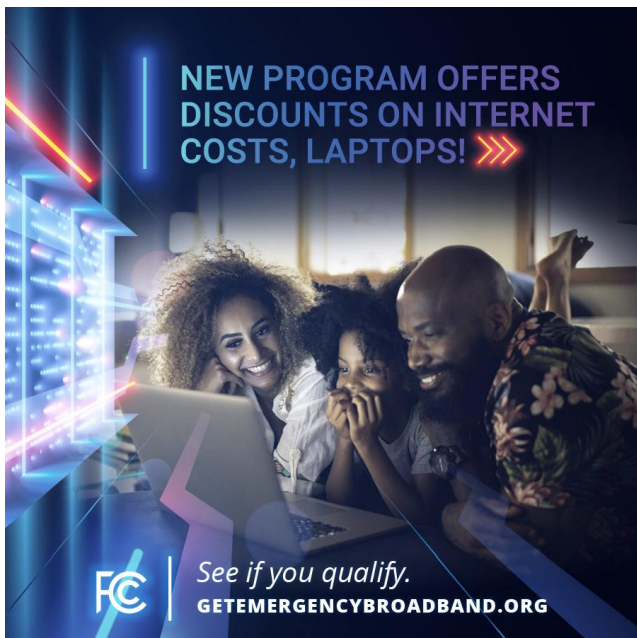
Offers prizes of \$1 million and \$300,000 to fully-vaccinated residents! Give it a shot.

Visit [mass.gov/vaxmillions](https://mass.gov/vaxmillions)



*July 22 Clothing Drive -  
Roxbury / Dorchester*

## Helpful Resources



The pandemic made clear that millions of people don't have access to or can't afford high speed internet. For many, laptops or tablets are also out of reach. These are essential resources, which is why the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has launched the **Emergency Broadband Benefit**.

The program offers **up to \$50/month** discount for broadband services and a one-time discount of **up to \$100** for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. See if you're eligible! Visit [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://GetEmergencyBroadband.org).

### Looking for information about COVID-19 vaccination?

Find helpful information at [mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax](https://mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax), watch for Covid-19 Vaccine Information updates on the ABCD website, and follow ABCD on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

## In the News

### > "Mass should extend moratorium over utility bills "

*Letter to the Editor, John J. Drew, The Boston Globe*

### > "Gavin Foundation opens new Bridge Recovery Benter in Malden "

*Special to the Malden Advocate*

### > "Why is the Mass. Unemployment Rate Twice as High As N.H.'s? "

*by Anthony Brooks, WBUR*

### > "An urgent message for all parents: Don't miss out on child tax credits "

*Op Ed by John J. Drew, The Dorchester Reporter*

## Recommended Reading: ABCD's Work in Context

### "Glitches leave parents without advance child tax credit payments"

*by Michelle Singletary, The Washington Post*

### "Few in Mass. Enroll for internet subsidy"

*by Aaron Pressman, The Boston Globe*



# In Brief

## ABCD Connect

Need help with food, rent, other essential bills?

If you or someone you know is experiencing hardship, **ABCD Connect** is here to help.

## Questions about programs and services?

Contact your nearest **ABCD neighborhood center**.

## Want to be an ABCD Insider?

Join us on social media and get to know the people who keep ABCD in motion every day.



Action for Boston Community Development | 617-348-6000 | [bostonabcd.org](http://bostonabcd.org)