

SUMMER 2019

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE IMPROVED HELPSTEPS



From left to right: Catherine D'Amato of the Greater Boston Food Bank, Dr. Eric Fleepler of Boston Children's Hospital, Paul Mina of United Way, and Monica Valdes Lupi of BPHC.



Massachusetts Senate President, Karen Spilka, presents a certificate to Paul Mina and HelpSteps founder, Dr. Eric Fleepler.

For HelpSteps trainings and more information, please contact:

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Watch the official launch ceremony **HERE** or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfhkCH1O5WA>



The Boston Public Health Commission is excited to announce that HelpSteps has officially merged with United Way/Mass2-1-1 and the Greater Boston Food Bank to serve all of Massachusetts. With this merger, the number of resources offered and ability to serve various communities has greatly improved. The merger has increased the number of agencies in the HelpSteps database to over 11,000. Many new service categories are available, from more education resources to help finding affordable housing. HelpSteps is now able to aid those who are looking for help with multiple social needs at once, furthering our mission to address all of the social determinants of health.

The new HelpSteps was officially launched on January 16, 2019 at the State House by Senate President, Karen Spilka.

LAUNCH OF THE IMPROVED HELPSTEPS

Watch our video tutorial on how to use HelpSteps to search for agencies [HERE](#) or visit <https://youtu.be/o2WbLORTVdQ>

Visit HelpSteps' new home page at: www.helpsteps.com

HelpSteps is also available as a mobile app on the App Store and Google Play.

Since 2005, HelpSteps has been a collaboration between the Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Children's Hospital to help Boston residents locate agencies to address their unique healthcare and social service needs. Massachusetts has a wealth of health and social service resources, but many residents do not know what is available to them. Dr. Eric Fleegler, founder of HelpSteps, explains that "Boston is resource rich; however, it is difficult for individuals to navigate the multitude of resources and then programs' eligibility criteria. HelpSteps streamlines the search. This new joint effort with Mass211 is an exciting next step to help families throughout the entire Commonwealth."

In addition to updating the agency database to reflect the merger, the HelpSteps website has also been improved to provide more accurate and efficient information. When Monica Valdes Lupi, JD, MPH was asked about this merger she said that "People need effective tools for navigating a complex maze of services. We're excited for this new collaboration and look forward to working together to help communities on their journeys to improving their health."

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