

## Additional Information About Benefits Counseling

Benefits Counseling training is sponsored by LifePath, Inc. with funding from the United Way of Franklin County.

State, federal and private organizations participate as training partners.

Volunteers are currently trained in helping people over age 60, or those with disabilities, apply for benefits from MassSave/CET, Pioneer Valley Planning Commissions, US Department of Agriculture, Community Action Fuel Assistance & Weatherization, Franklin Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority and SNAP.



At LifePath, we listen first, and then help each person find the best options for their unique needs. We help elders and persons with disabilities maintain independence and quality of life in their own homes and communities. We help caregivers to find relief and help loved ones to choose the right path.

For over 40 years, we've been offering options for independence. We welcome all people regardless of race, physical appearance or ability, sex, age, nationality or ancestry, class, religious or political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

LifePath, a private, nonprofit corporation, serves Franklin County plus Athol, Petersham, Phillipston, and Royalston. Some of LifePath programs extend into Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties.

LifePath, Inc., is an Area Agency on Aging and Aging Services Access Point funded in part by the federal Older Americans Act, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts Council on Aging, MassHealth Office of Long-Term Care, United Way of Franklin County, and other sources both public and private. LifePath is operated by a local volunteer board of directors, a majority of whom are, by law, elders. As an AA/EOE employer, LifePath does not discriminate in program admissions, access, services, or employment practices.

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## Benefits Counseling

*Helping to increase your access to benefits that  
make your home energy efficient and safe*

**A Service of LifePath, Inc.**

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Formerly Franklin County  
Home Care Corporation





## What is Benefits Counseling?

The Benefits Counseling program at LifePath, Inc. is designed to enhance the financial security of adults age 60 and older, or persons with disabilities of any age. Volunteers help clients access benefits that help pay for food and shelter expenses and address issues of accessibility, home repair, and home energy efficiency.

### What do Benefits Counselors do?

Benefits counselors help older adults & persons with disabilities apply for public benefits that can save them money and meet their basic need to stay safely at home for as long as possible.

Benefits counselors also provide information on resources and partner agencies that provide loans or grants for home repair, home modification, home energy efficiency, and foreclosure protection.



*“LifePath has made a difference in so many lives—enriching their quality of life and giving them options that wouldn’t be available if not for the auspice of LifePath.”*

## Who are Benefits Counselors?

Benefits Counselors are individuals from communities in Franklin County & the North Quabbin area who are trained to provide assistance.

Benefits Counselors work in their own community & create their own schedules. Some are affiliated with organizations like Councils on Aging.



## Becoming a Volunteer

LifePath coordinates the training of Benefits Counseling volunteers. Local agencies educate Benefits Counselors on what benefits are available for home repair, weatherization, fuel assistance and home modifications. Volunteers collaborate with these local agencies to secure benefits for those in need. Training is free and ongoing.

Benefits Counselors are always needed. If you are interested in becoming a Benefits Counselor or you would like more information, please contact LifePath.



*“Benefits Counseling has made a big difference in my life. They help with my heat, which is electric, in this small apartment—that’s helped a lot. They’re easily accessible, but I think a lot of people just don’t use it. I would say, ‘Hey, call this number. Guaranteed, they’ll help.’”*