
SENIOR HOUSING in GREAT BARRINGTON

Many seniors prefer to continue living at home, but some choose to live with friends or family or in senior housing. They may feel that maintaining a comfortable and safe home is a challenge or they no longer wish to live alone.

Choosing the best or most realistic housing option is often neither easy nor simple. Discussing housing choices with friends or family may be a good place to start.

● *Apartment living*

Several apartment buildings in Great Barrington have large senior populations. Two examples:

1. Beech Tree Commons, Silver Street. One and two bedroom apartments; rents range from \$854 – \$952, including heat. 413 528.3878.
2. Oakwood Condominiums, 80 Taconic Street. Units for rent or purchase; see newspaper real estate ads.

● *HCVP vouchers*

HCVP (Housing Choice Voucher Program, previously known as Section 8) is administered by the Stockbridge Housing Authority. The program offers rental assistance to low-income individuals and families in non-subsidized apartments (e.g., low-income senior housing) which meet program requirements. Call the Authority at 413 298.3222 or see www.stockbridgehousing.com or www.massresources.org.

● *Low-income senior housing*

Three complexes in Great Barrington offer low-cost apartments for those who meet age and income guidelines. Minimum age is 60 or 62 depending on the complex; rent is usually 30% of income.

1. Brookside Manor and Flag Rock, run by the Great Barrington Housing Authority, have one-bedroom apartments for individuals with income under \$41,450. Call 413 274.1142.
2. Bostwick Gardens, managed by Berkshire Housing Services, has studio and one-bedroom apartments for individuals with income under \$27,150. For info, call 413 499.1630 x125.

● *Assisted living*

Assisted living complexes provide intermediate-level care for adults who cannot live independently, yet do not need full-time help with health care provided by a nursing home. Assisted living communities typically offer apartment-style living plus services such as personal care, meal preparation and activity programs that include off-site excursions. Some services are included in the monthly cost; others are paid for out-of-pocket.

There are no assisted living complexes in Great Barrington, but several nearby facilities offer a choice of studio, one or two bedroom apartments:

1. The Village at Laurel Lake, Lee. 413 243.2727 or see www.agingcare.com.
2. Pinehill at Kimball Farms, Lenox. 413 637.7000 or see www.pinehillassisted.org.

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Resources for independent living

● **BCAC (Berkshire Community Action Council)** has a Fuel Assistance Program which subsidizes heating oil for eligible individuals. There are income and household size requirements; apply by September 1 for the heating season beginning November 1. BCAC also offers a home energy audit to assess home heating efficiency. Call 413 528.1947 or see www.bcacinc.org for more info.

● **Verizon's Lifeline Service** offers a discount on phone service for low-income users. Verizon's Link-up program offers a discount on phone installation. Call Verizon at 800 837.4966 for info.

● **AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)** has useful recommendations for safe and independent living: www.aarp.org/homedesign.

1. remove clutter from stairways to help prevent trips and falls.
2. install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as recommended.
3. mount grab bars next to toilet, bathtub and shower.
4. install a personal emergency monitoring and response system.

Web sites

● **AARP:** www.aarp.org
American Association of Retired Persons

● **BCAC:** www.bcacinc.org
Berkshire Community Action Council

● **Housing:** www.stockbridgehousing.com
Stockbridge Housing Authority

● **Mass. resources:** www.massresources.org
This comprehensive site includes information on home-buyer and homeowner programs, foreclosure prevention, HCVP (Section 8) vouchers, public housing, assisted living and long-term care, and much more.

There are many other relevant web sites; a Google search will find specific housing information, legal help, local real estate brokers, etc.