MEN is about making connections. We create safe spaces where men of color can come together to receive and give support, learn and teach, heal and be healed.

Our mission is to build pathways to success for men of color by focusing attention and resources on the social stressors that obstruct their potential:

- Financial health
- Housing stability
- Mental health

Our History

In 2009, LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Boston began the Resilient Communities/Resilient Families Initiative, investing in comprehensive community-building work in Roxbury with Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation, Codman Square with Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, and Mattapan with Mattapan Family Service Center/ABCD. Each partner convened a neighborhood coalition: Mission 180, Millennium 10, and Mattapan United. With LISC’s support, each coalition spent seven years identifying their communities’ needs and implementing comprehensive solutions. Now, with traction at the neighborhood level and shared priorities for community development, the three groups have banded together to create MEN, with the goal of sharing resources and making connections across all three neighborhoods. Vital Village Network serves as the evaluator for MEN and has enhanced the collaboration through strategic partnerships.
Who We Are

MEN is open to all men of color, ages 25-55, from Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. Members speak many languages, come from many countries, and belong to many cultures. We are both recipients and providers of the Network’s services, and we take an active role in shaping and planning the Network’s programs.

Our Values

- Everyone is capable of making a positive contribution to their lives and their communities
- Everyone is inherently capable of succeeding and will do so in the presence of opportunity
- Diversity strengthens our communities and enriches our lives
- We are stronger together, and must strive to break down the walls that keep us apart

What We Do

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

MEN provides programs and events that give members a chance to learn about ways to improve their financial well-being, housing stability, and mental health. These might include a workshop on credit and budgeting, a course for first-time home-buyers, one-on-one career counseling sessions, or a presentation on services offered at local community health centers. We run original programming and draw from the resources available across all of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

ADVOCACY AND SERVICE

We inform and shape the policies that impact our community, with the goal of improving the quality of life for men of color and all residents. This could mean educating ourselves and others about tenant rights, hosting conversations with law enforcement agencies, or supporting the preservation of affordable housing. We also hold coat drives, job fairs, and other events that benefit the community at large.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Network is a safe space for men of color to be themselves, to speak out, and to be heard. We create casual opportunities for sharing such as peer group gatherings, dinner conversations, and sporting events. We also link members to groups like Breakfast IV Brothers, Fathers Uplift, and other local organizations whose focus overlaps with ours.

Join MEN

To learn more about MEN, join the group, or find out about upcoming activities and events, contact:

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