

# CITY LAUNCHES INTERGENERATIONAL HOMESHARE PILOT PROGRAM

*The pilot provides affordable housing to graduate students while assisting local homeowners and increasing community stability.*

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced today the launch of the Intergenerational Homeshare Pilot, a collaboration with the [Elderly Commission](#), the [Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab](#), and [nesterly](#), a local social enterprise working to make existing homes work better for today's households. The Intergenerational Homeshare Pilot will match households with a spare bedroom to students who are seeking an affordable place to stay during their studies, as well as an opportunity to engage with the local community.

This pilot program is a goal from Mayor Walsh and the Elderly Commission's [Age-Friendly Boston Action Plan](#), which aims to encourage age-friendly development along with alternative housing options by exploring the creation of an Intergenerational Homeshare, matching older homeowners with extra rooms to rent with people who need to rent a room. The pilot currently has eight pairings, and will run through December to determine the impact, feasibility, and resources needed to potentially scale this initiative into a City-wide program.

"Boston is home to a growing number of seniors and students. We know that many of our older residents want to stay in their homes -- but need companionship and some simple home maintenance," said Mayor Walsh. "By matching established adults with extra space with students who are eager to engage with their communities, we're creating an innovative housing pilot that provides more affordable options for everyone."

Seniors are the fastest-growing cohort of Boston's population, as outlined in the Walsh Administration's housing plan: [Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030](#). In addition, [AARP reports](#) that nearly ninety percent of older households want to age in their homes and communities, but face challenges with social isolation, declining incomes and home maintenance.

new social connections that will enrich their lives—as well as their communities."

The City and nesterly will continue to evaluate the pilot over the coming months to determine the program's success and to assess potential ways to expand it. In the meantime, residents can sign up to host or rent at [www.nesterly.io](http://www.nesterly.io) today.

## **ABOUT NESTERLY**

nesterly is an award-winning social enterprise founded by recent MIT graduates Noelle Marcus and Rachel Goor. Their model offers a unique approach to solving the housing affordability crisis by capitalizing on the millions of empty spare bedrooms across the country. nesterly's digital community connects households who have spare space with young people willing to exchange help around the house for lower rent. They were named an [Idea to Change the World](#) in 2017 by MIT's IDEAS Global Challenge, and have been featured in [The Atlantic](#), [Forbes](#), and [NPR's Marketplace](#). To learn more or join the community, visit [www.nesterly.io](http://www.nesterly.io), or contact them directly at [info@nesterly.net](mailto:info@nesterly.net).

## **ABOUT AGE FRIENDLY BOSTON**

We want to create an environment where older adults can continue to lead healthy, independent and productive lives in Boston. We're challenging the City's public agencies, businesses, cultural, educational, and religious institutions, and community groups to consider how they can change policy and practices to enhance the quality of life for our residents.

## **ABOUT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS AND THE HOUSING INNOVATION LAB**

The Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab was facilitated by a collaboration between the Department of Neighborhood Development and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM). The Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics serves as Mayor Walsh's civic innovation group. A City agency that was formed in 2010, New Urban Mechanics pilots experiments that offer the potential to improve the quality of life for Boston residents.