

January 2009

## **Harvard University – HUCTW Joint Housing and Transportation Committee:**

Building on the momentum of the Housing and Transportation Side Table during the 2007 negotiations between Harvard and HUCTW, the Joint Housing and Transportation Committee has begun meeting on a monthly basis. The Committee is made up of an equal number of union and management representatives from across the University, including the Longwood Medical Area. The goals of the committee are listed in Article XII of the Agreement and include administering the no-interest loan programs; sharing information on workshops about home buying, rental education, and transportation options; as well as reviewing related policies. If you have any questions about the committee or suggestions for programs or ideas that the committee should pursue, please contact Kasia Razynska (kasia.raz@huctw.org) or Lynn Wang DeLacey (lynnwang.delacey@huctw.org).

### **HUCTW Transportation Fund:**



Are you commuting to Harvard each day via commuter rail from Zone 6 or above? Do you use a private commuter bus or non-MBTA train? Do you park in an MBTA parking lot or in the Longwood Medical area? Are your non-subsidized commuting expenses to and from work above \$100 per month? If so, you might be eligible to take advantage of the HUCTW Transportation Fund which partially reimburses these costs. For detailed guidelines, application forms, and a description of the supporting receipts and documentation required please visit the HUCTW's website ([www.huctw.org/transportation](http://www.huctw.org/transportation)).

The January 2009 deadline for submission of applications and documentation has been extended to **January 23rd** (for costs incurred between July 1 and December 31st of 2008). Please note that the fund does not reimburse costs incurred while parking in Cambridge garages owned by Harvard, MBTA passes below zone 6, gasoline, tolls, or wear and tear on a privately owned vehicle. We are trying to help with high commuting costs, so please apply if you are eligible!



### **HUCTW Housing Assistance Small Loan Program:**

Have you changed apartments in the last 3 months? Are you planning a move in the near future? If so, make sure to check out the HUCTW Rental Transition Loan program. In conjunction with the Harvard University Employees Credit Union (HUECU) the program offers an interest free loan up to \$2,500 to help with moving costs, security deposits, and first and last month's rent. The Loan application process is simple and quick, with usually a week's turnaround time.

In addition to the rental transition loan program, 2 new loans were added with the newest contract: 1) The Home Owner Moving Loan, \$1,000 maximum, helps new homeowners transition into ownership by helping defray costs such as truck rentals or movers. 2) The Home Emergency Hardship Loan, maximum \$2,500, helps both homeowners and renters with unexpected, unforeseen, and catastrophic events related to natural disasters or repair/replacement of vital appliances such as heating systems. The maximum amount for this loan is \$2,500. For more information about these programs please visit HUCTW's website: ([www.huctw.org/housing](http://www.huctw.org/housing)).