

Housing and Health Initiative

Community Project

Planning Office for Urban Affairs

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Summary

To improve assessment of resident health and social needs in our affordable housing communities, develop programming to improve resident health, and create partnerships with health-related organizations.

Overview

Housing is a well-documented determinant of health, and the burden of disease associated with inadequate housing is large. Substandard or the lack of housing impacts multiple dimensions of health, including chronic disease and mental health. Housing alone is not enough to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families thrive; often, intensive or targeted services are also needed. There is a need to create and strengthen relationships with healthcare organizations to fill service gaps needed to support the connection between housing and health needs. The funds requested are needed to help initiate and implement the Planning Office for Urban Affairs' Housing and Health Initiative. POUA would use the funds to identify unmet resident health care needs, create partnerships with health care and other health-related organizations/available resources to address these needs, and engage with POUA's existing property managers and service providers to implement programs for residents to improve their access to health care and related services. Initially, POUA is assessing unmet resident health needs, and financial support would enable us to continue the survey at POUA properties that have high numbers of formerly homeless and low-income households but that also have existing resident services partnerships in place. These developments include: Uphams Crossing, in Boston, MA, which is managed in partnership with St. Mary's Center for Women and Children, where 20 of 80 units are reserved for families leaving Boston's shelter system; the Union at 48 Boylston Street in Boston, MA, which was developed in partnership with St. Francis House, where 26 of 46 units are reserved for formerly homeless households; and the first safe haven for victims of human trafficking built in the City of Boston, managed by Casa Myrna. Taken together, approximately 135 low-income households would benefit directly during the grant period. Once we have collected baseline health statistics for residents, we would then use the remaining funds to "seed" the development of programs and services informed by the resident surveys. Partnerships with health care organizations, would help property management and resident service staff better meet resident-identified health needs and, ultimately, to help residents maintain stable tenancies.

Federal Tax ID

23-7089722

Geographic Impact

Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk county communities

Project Budget

\$50,000

Sponsorship Levels

Housing & Health Advocate - \$2500

- Feature sponsors name in printed media
- Feature sponsors name and logo in quarterly newsletter

Housing & Health Partner - \$10,000

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- Feature sponsors name and logo on POUA website

Housing & Health Ally - \$25,000

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Housing & Health Benefactor - \$50,000

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- Special press release and award ceremony