

St. Paul Public Housing Agency

RESIDENT INITIATIVES

Opening a Window to Opportunity



Purpose

The PHA's Resident Initiatives Department works to strengthen the Agency's role and participation in all contracts, grants, partnerships and programs that promote supportive services, and resident economic development and self-sufficiency. The department is also charged with evaluating the PHA's participation in current supportive services programming, and determining where programming might be expanded based on need and available resources.

Goals

Sustain Current Partnerships Providing Supportive Services

Work with community, state and federal partners to ensure the continuation of supportive service programs for public housing residents. Work with partner organizations, resident councils, and various departments to identify opportunities for expansion of current supportive services. Continue to provide contract administration and advice to the City Wide Residents Council and the Hi-Rise Presidents Council for the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant activities. Work with various departments and legal counsel to ensure compliance with federal and state laws. Work with various departments and resident councils to coordinate opportunities for both formal and informal recognition of the contributions of supportive service partners.

Identify Opportunities for New Sustainable Partnerships that Encourage Resident Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency

Work with various departments and resident councils to identify new partnership opportunities with local, state and national organizations. Work with current partnership organizations to identify opportunities for new collaborations. Work with various departments and legal counsel to ensure compliance with federal and state laws. Work with community partners, various departments, and public housing site staff to ensure program implementation and participant compliance.

Mission Statement

"The PHA helps families and individuals with low incomes achieve greater stability and self reliance by providing safe, affordable, quality housing, and links to community services."

FACT

The PHA provides 8,000+ affordable homes to over 21,000 people.

FACT

The PHA has been an independent governmental unit since 1977.

FACT

The PHA is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

Identify and Seek Funding Opportunities for Supportive Service Implementation

Where appropriate, work with the Hi-Rise Presidents Council, City Wide Residents Council, individual resident councils, and community partners to identify and apply for funding to implement and/or continue supportive service programs. Work with staff to identify local, state and federal grant opportunities for onsite programs. Engage and work with community partners on joint funding applications for supportive services for residents. Ensure that staff is actively seeking support from the Presidents Council, individual resident councils, and the City Wide Residents Council when appropriate.

Family Resident Council Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)

Work with the Family Resident Councils, the Finance and Resident Services departments to provide guidance and support the implementation of the requirements outlined in the Family Resident Council MOUs approved by the PHA Board on May 22, 2013. Provide leadership training opportunities to the family site resident council members and work with the Resident Initiatives Coordinator and Human Services Coordinators to promote attendance.

Section 3 Resident Education and Training

Identify resources and services to provide Section 3 related education and training to public housing residents.

Featured Programs

Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

A multi-year grant from Minnesota's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) provides funds for activities and services for Saint Paul PHA residents, through a partnership between the PHA and the St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health. The PHA's Hi-Rise Presidents Council and City Wide Residents Council help plan and carry out these initiatives which focus on policy, systems and environment change. SHIP encourages and supports residents who want to improve their health through opportunities for healthy eating, more active lifestyles, and reduced tobacco use.

Metro State University (MSU): College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Since 2008, instructors and students in MSU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences have provided health promotion/health education clinics at several PHA sites. This partnership provides public housing residents with the opportunity to attend medication safety fairs, advanced foot care clinics and blood pressure clinics, and access to community-based mental health care. In 2014, the PHA and MSU entered into a new five-year agreement to focus on expanding MSU's work to all PHA sites, and to include health promotion/health education clinics in areas such as community assessments, pre-natal education, pediatrics, and disease prevention.

Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) HUD Grant

In 2011, the City Wide Residents Council (CWRC) and the Hi-Rise Presidents Council collaboratively applied for and received a three-year HUD grant under the Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency Program (ROSS). The grant enabled the resident leadership groups to contract with four Service Coordinators to engage public housing residents,

community partners, and employers to facilitate and provide opportunities in the areas of education and training, computer literacy, and employment. The grant was successfully completed in September 2014.

Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP)

The PHA's first CTEP member through SPNN started in September of 2011. SPNN is a non-profit community media center serving Saint Paul and the Twin Cities metro area, operating five channels on the Comcast cable system. SPNN administers the AmeriCorps CTEP program with a focus on "digital literacy" for adults and youth, particularly those with limited English. CTEP members assist low-income families, new immigrants, and individuals with disabilities to better use technology resources. The CTEP members have helped PHA residents enhance their computer literacy by providing open labs and recruiting volunteers from the community. CTEP members also help expand programming options (basic computer skills, job search skills and resumé writing) and hours in the four community center computer labs.

Allina Health

With the support of two Allina Health funding opportunities (the Charitable Contribution Request program and the Neighborhood Health Connection Grant), the City Wide Residents Council and the Hi-Rise Presidents Council have worked with PHA staff to successfully implement programs focused on youth bicycling, senior exercise, family nutrition education, and community gardening. Since 2012, the City Wide Residents Council and the Hi-Rise Presidents Council have received \$4,000 in Charitable Contribution Request funds, and over \$13,700 in Neighborhood Health Connection Grant funds.

Minnesota Resource Center

Minnesota Resource Center (MRC) is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization that offers quality career services for individuals who, despite barriers, are taking the initiative to reach their employment and self-sufficiency goals. MRC's holistic training approach provides an employer-driven technical curriculum and extensive work-readiness training. Currently in partnership with the PHA, MRC is offering residents its mandatory foundation program "Workplace Essentials" that includes core computer skills, MS Office Suite, professional communications, applied math, business and interpersonal skills, time management and financial literacy.

FACT

In the Section 8 Program, the average tenant payment for rent plus utilities is \$320/month.

The average cost per voucher (rent subsidy plus administration) is \$715/month.

FACT

In the Public Housing Program, the average tenant payment for rent plus utilities is \$357/month.

The total federal subsidy, including operating and capital improvements, is approximately \$387/month.

FACT

The average federal subsidy for operating costs is \$255/month.

The average federal subsidy for capital improvements is \$132/month.

Partners in Opportunity

- AARP Minnesota: Tax Assistance
- Active Living Ramsey Communities
- Allina Health
- American Academy of Neurology
- AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project
- Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
- Association for Non-Smokers MN (ANSR)
- Bethel University
- Bike Fixtation
- Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities
- Bridging.org
- City of Saint Paul: Right Track Program
- City Wide Residents Council
- Cycles for Change
- Dero Bike Racks
- Dispute Resolution Center
- Employment Action Center
- Family Housing Fund
- Free Bikes 4 Kidz
- Gardening Matters
- Hamline Midway Elders
- Head Start Program
- Highway Federal Credit Union
- Hmong American Farmers Association
- Jeffrey McKeage, Computer Lab Facilitator/Instructor
- Keystone Community Services
- LOFT Literary Center
- Major Taylor Bicycling Club
- Metro State University: College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Minnesota Resource Center, Inc.
- MORE Multicultural School for Empowerment
- Nice Ride Minnesota
- Pharmacy at Cub Foods Store #1694
- Presbyterian Homes
- Presidents Council of St. Paul PHA Hi-Rises
- Ramsey County Master Gardeners
- RSVP/Bone Builders
- Saint Paul College: Cosmetology, Wellness and Fitness Programs
- Saint Paul Fire Department
- Saint Paul Neighborhood Network
- Saint Paul Police Department
- Saint Paul Public Library
- Saint Paul Public Works Department
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department
- Saint Paul Public Schools: Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Second Harvest Heartland
- St. Paul Smart Trips
- St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Environmental Health
- St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health
- The Food Group
- Transit for Livable Communities
- Two Men And A Truck
- University of Minnesota Extension Programs
- Urban Roots
- Walgreens Stores of St. Paul, Minnesota
- Westside Community Health Services
- Women on Bikes
- YMCA Twin Cities
- Youth Conservation Corps
- YouthCARE Minnesota

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