

Housing Solutions' Community Investment Plan Summary – November 2017

Goal #1: Continue strengthening our administration and the impact of the housing programs we operate through contracts with DHCD.

Housing Solutions' most important asset is its partnership with the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to administer the state's housing assistance programs in Plymouth and Bristol counties. While Housing Solutions has been largely effective in these roles, it is committed to consistently meeting the state's – and its own – performance expectations, particularly related to the Rental Assistance Program. To continue to provide the best service possible to residents of southeastern Massachusetts, we must commit to prioritizing the efficiency and quality of our management of these indispensable programs.

Goal #2: Expand and improve Housing Solutions' family economic opportunity programs and practices

Too many low-income families get “stuck” in assisted units because of their limited skills, the economic impermanence of many service sector jobs and the unintended disincentives within housing subsidy programs. Housing Solutions is committed to working with partner organizations to develop and implement strategies that permit residents of affordable housing to use the residential stability enabled by affordable housing to pursue opportunities that lead to greater economic security and mobility.

Goal #3: Increase the supply of and access to affordable housing

Affordable housing is in short supply, especially in the region's “opportunity communities” with better public schools, safer neighborhoods and superior public services. Housing Solutions plans to generate greater public attention on the need for affordable housing in both counties, encourage the inclusion of affordable units in new housing construction projects and expand our own portfolio of affordable housing through real estate development activities.

Goal #4: Strengthen Housing Solutions' organizational capacity

Organizations are powerful vehicles for mobilizing and coordinating people and resources to tackle challenging social issues like poverty and homelessness. To do so they need the capacity to manage growth, cope with setbacks, handle leadership transitions, and respond to new challenges. Revenue constraints and the prioritization of programmatic needs have left Housing Solutions with a lean operational infrastructure. To fulfill our mission, Housing Solutions needs to generate enough unrestricted revenue to support a healthy, effective, and dynamic operating infrastructure, as well as program-specific funding to fulfill our aspirations to improve economic mobility for the people we help to house.