



Healing Baltimore! Resource Organizations

November 15, 2019

Baltimore City Department of Planning

As the agency that guides the physical development of the city, the Department of Planning (DOP) plays an important role in creating and encouraging environments that support individual and community wellbeing. Much of DOP's work aligns with the social determinants of health that can be traced to zip code. At its most elemental, the agency and Planning Commission are responsible for managing the Capital Budget process to invest in infrastructure such as parks and rec centers, housing, health centers, libraries, and waste water systems; making sure land use and buildings abide by the City's zoning code; and updating the Comprehensive Master Plan to capture Baltimore's vision for the future. Other DOP activities include working with agencies, residents, organizations, and others to improve access to healthy and affordable food, reuse vacant or underutilized buildings and land, create safe pedestrian paths to schools, protect against flooding, conserve forests, preserve community history, and engage residents through inclusive and collaborative processes to expand access to power and resources.

Jennifer Leonard, INSPIRE Program Manager

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Bon Secours Housing and Healthcare

Unity Properties sponsors housing and community development initiatives in collaboration with the people of West Baltimore. We develop and operate safe, affordable housing, and initiate and support neighborhood development and community-driven revitalization efforts. Unity manages more than 800 affordable housing units for families, seniors and people with disabilities and has plans for an additional 400 units. Bon Secours Community Works provides a continuum of services that address the social determinants of health such as poverty, housing, employment and education. We meet a range of West Baltimore residents' immediate and basic needs, as well as help them address longer-term issues that impact self sufficiency and stability. Recently we broke ground on the *Future Baltimore* Community Resource Center, which will house new and expansion programming by Bon Secours Community Works and other organizations. All of those we serve have household incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty level.

Christine Boone, Asset Manager, Housing and Community Health

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Enterprise Community Partners

In January of 2019, Enterprise Community Partners launched a national **Health Begins with Home**, an initiative that builds on Enterprise's longstanding commitment to the health and wellbeing of low-income Americans and working with cross-sector partners. Health Begins with Home brings together the core strengths of Enterprise with a commitment to promote health as a top priority in the development and preservation of affordable homes and elevate home as an essential tool for improving resident and community health. Enterprise is doing this through providing health standards, processes and best practices to affordable housing developers. We provide capacity building opportunities to affordable housing and healthcare partners through grants and technical assistance. Additionally, Enterprise connects capital from healthcare organizations to the development and preservation of healthy affordable homes. To strengthen our ability to do all of this work, we will continue promoting health through housing policy and provide evaluation findings and measurement tools to the field to support the understanding of how housing impacts health. In Baltimore, Enterprise is currently convening a cohort of senior housing developers - **Healthy Aging in Affordable Housing (HAAH)** – which seeks improve the health and well-being outcomes of current and future low-income seniors in Baltimore City living in affordable rental housing with a focus on care coordination services by developing a sustainable funding stream for over 4,000 units of rental housing across affordable properties for older adults in Baltimore.

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Episcopal Housing Corporation

For the past 25 years Episcopal Housing Corporation is committed to the development of housing and community facilities that create health and sustainable environments. Our goal is to be a developer producing buildings that allow our residents and clients to live in dignity and access resources that empower themselves. EHC is committed to the concept of Housing First. We acknowledge that housing is health care and by producing housing for those experiencing homelessness and others experiencing trauma we are able to help them live more healthy and fulfilling lives. Families access to safe, decent housing; reunited foster care families and permanent supportive housing units for those exiting homelessness are all part of EHC's commitment to creating healthy environments.

Daniel McCarthy, Executive Director
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Health Care for the Homeless

The mission of Health Care for the Homeless is “to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable individuals and families by providing quality, integrated health care and promoting access to affordable housing and sustainable incomes through direct service, advocacy and community engagement.” Our model of care is known in the health care industry as a patient-centered medical home. Because we provided comprehensive care that goes beyond medical care, we call ourselves a health home. A health home delivers person-centered, whole-person care that is evidence-based and used data to continuously improve the care we deliver.

Eddie Martin, Director of Engagement

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Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS)

HUBS is an initiative created by a collaboration of service providers. A leadership team composed of Civic Works, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Baltimore, Neighborhood Housing Service of Baltimore, and Rebuilding Together Baltimore is administering the program and providing operational oversight. Six different sites coordinate housing and related services for Baltimore City older adults, while also improving their health and safety, preserving the integrity of their properties, and extending the time that they can remain in their homes. Social workers and staff members based at each site work with clients one-on-one through assessing their home modification needs and determining other community resources that may improve the quality of their lives. By providing this personalized service, more older adults will access the services that they are eligible for and remain in their homes for an extended period of time.

Lauren Avarella, Director of Elder Services

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Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

In 2015, the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition launched its Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) program to improve the financial well-being of older adults. Initially, SOAR focused on consumer education on financial exploitation and age-friendly banking. As the SOAR program developed, MCRC identified gaps in the services provided to older adults: few were taking advantage of existing benefits – specifically the Homeowners’ Tax Credit and Renters’ Tax Credit; and older adults often need ongoing financial guidance and support beyond services offered by other service providers. To address these gaps, in 2017, SOAR expanded to include 1) screening and application assistance for the Renters’ Tax Credit (RTC) and Homeowners’ Tax Credit (HOTC), 2) comprehensive benefit checkups and case management; and 3) ongoing financial counseling and coaching to build and protect individual assets, as well as to connect and maximize the efficacy of existing services.

Francine Hyman, SOAR Financial Counselor

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New Ecology, Inc.

Why address **housing resiliency** when we talk about Healing Baltimore? Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme storms, exacerbating flooding, shifting precipitation patterns, and causing more extreme heat waves in Baltimore and throughout the world. New Ecology, Inc. has developed a resilience assessment protocol to provide specific, practical recommendations to enable owners and developers of new and existing buildings to make improvements to resist damage from severe weather and to bounce back more quickly should damage occur. Resilience planning for multifamily housing and community facilities can provide tangible and intangible benefits to building owners and residents, improving safety, comfort, and reducing costs from water damage, mold, and related health problems.

Josh Galloway, Senior Project Manager

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Northwest Baltimore Partnership

Northwest Baltimore Partnership is working collaboratively to build value from Park Circle to Pikesville. Participants include anchor institutions, faith based groups, local community development organizations, business groups and public partners including City and County Government representatives. Representatives at Health Baltimore expect to provide information on the HUBs Program at Sinai and CHAI, Inspire Grants, workforce programming, supportive housing, and Safe Streets programming.

Kurt Sommer

Director, Community Development

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Social Determinants of Health Taskforce

Led by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), Social Determinants of Health Taskforce works to identify and examine the conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age that are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources, whether globally, national, or locally. These attributes, also known as the social determinants of health, are seen as primarily responsible for what are called health inequities: the unfair differences in health status seen within and between different geographic areas. The subcommittees of the Taskforce are Civil Unrest & Social Justice, Health & Human Services, Workforce Development & Jobs, Housing, and Education.

Andre Robinson, Co-Chair Housing Subcommittee

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