

Boston REACH: Partners in Health and Housing Year 3 Update (October 2016-March 2017)

CDC announced a 4th year of support, funding Boston REACH: PHH 1 more year!

Special points of interest:

- 4 Community Health Centers are incorporating food insecurity screening into their work flow
- Teens from South Street Youth Center showcase their healthy food video to the community.
- BHA posted 750 language-appropriate 'Welcome to our Non-Smoking Building' signs across 53 developments.
- 50 Trinity Management staff, including 3 managers from Orchard Gardens and Franklin Hill housing developments are trained in non-smoking policy.
- 87 BHA and Section 8 resident leaders and community partners were trained in Help-Steps across 4 training sessions.
- 34 BHA Local Tenant Organizations receive mini-grants.

Advances in non-smoking housing across Boston

On March 1, Maverick Landing implemented their non-smoking policy, to improve the environment and health of about 1,000 residents living in 396 units! Maverick Landing is a Boston Housing Authority (BHA) mixed finance residential development managed by Trinity Management.

Staff of other mixed finance properties managed by Trinity Management, Orchard Gardens and Franklin Hill housing developments were

trained on transitioning the residential properties they manage to non-smoking. The training was led by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) Division of Healthy Homes & Community Supports Director, Eugene Barros.

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) posted 750

"Welcome to our Non-Smoking Building" signs across all 53 BHA developments in early 2017. The signs are available in 4 designs (6 language combina-

Children's HealthWatch has been selected to provide training as community health centers introduce food insecurity screening and assistance

Through a competitive process, [Children's HealthWatch](#) (CHW), has been selected to provide training and technical assistance to 4 Community Health Centers (South End, Southern Jamaica Plain, Upham's Corner, and Whittier Street) on in-

corporating food insecurity screening and assistance into work flow. Training will include a learning collaborative. Boston REACH: PHH is working to increase access to healthy and affordable food for BHA residents and other health center pa-



New Non-Smoking Building sign up at Hassan Apartments. 750 signs have been posted at BHA!

tions each), and posted by most commonly read languages by residents of each building.

tients with these Community Health Centers (CHCs). In addition to the intensive support CHW will provide to the 4 CHCs, it is making components of the training available to all interested Boston CHC's. *(Continued on page 2).*

(...CHW selected, continued)

During these 6 months, these 4 health centers have worked with nonprofit food organizations, Fair Foods and Fresh Truck, to facilitate **5,549 healthy and low cost/free food transactions** and conducted **84 outreach events** for BHA residents. They also engaged **22 residents, including BHA residents** in community garden activities where participants were able to bring home fresh produce.



We're on the web!
www.bphc.org/reachpnh

Food insecurity efforts across Boston Community Health Centers (CHCs) and non-profit food organizations gains traction.

In March, Boston REACH: PHH, in collaboration with several food partners, presented at two meetings, each convening representatives from Boston Community Health Centers (CHCs). One meeting was the Fitness in the City program, sponsored by Boston Children's Hospital, across 11 Boston CHCs to reduce obesity among youth and families. The second was the March Boston Conference (of the MassLeague) of CHCs meeting. At both of these meetings the Boston REACH: PHH project was among a number of presenters addressing food insecurity in Boston. Clearly this is an important issue for the Community Health Centers and it is exciting to see the opportunities for collaboration.

Youth from the South Street Youth Center showcase their healthy food strategies video at Bella Luna Restaurant on February 23rd.

Over 20 community members attended the premier of *How We Do It—Successful Healthy Food Strategies*, a [video](#) created by youth of the South Street Youth Center in Jamaica Plain, a partnership of the Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and the South St. Housing Development. Through resident interviews, the video demonstrates the challenges including transportation, gentrification, and low incomes and the resourceful strategies residents use to provide healthy food for their families.



February BHA City-wide LTO Meeting a Success!

Year 2 Resident Health and Wellness Survey (RHWS) results were shared with 53 BHA Local Tenant Organizations (LTOs) and Section 8 residents at the February 2017 city-wide LTO meeting, leading to a dynamic discussion.

Participants were also trained on the resource locator, [HelpSteps](#). HelpSteps is a free tool created in partnership between Children's Hospital Boston and BPHC's Mayors Health Line available to the public. LTOs and staff will be able to use the tool to help BHA residents find free and low cost resources in their community. With three additional HelpSteps trainings at BHA, 87 partners have been trained to date this year.



LTOs are trained on resource locator HelpSteps, and hear about Year 2 Resident Health & Wellness Survey results



34 BHA Mini-grants underway!

Through Boston REACH: PHH, Boston Housing Authority is funding 34 mini-grants this project year (October 2016-September 2017) for Local Tenant Organizations (LTOs) to work on a project area important to the tenant organization. This has included strengthening relationships with community health centers including Martha Elliot, East Boston, South End and Whittier Street. Residents from Orient Heights toured and learned about East Boston Neighborhood Health Center resources in December, and BHA staff are striving to connect 5 BHA developments with Cooking Matters classes, and 15 developments with Bay Cove/ Kit Clark Wellness Center events on budgeting and healthy eating.



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Boston REACH: Partners in Health and Housing is funded through the US. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.