

Providence Housing Development Corporation - Tree Clemonds

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Organization Profile

Organization Name	Mail Address
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Mission/Vision Providence Housing's mission is to strengthen families and communities by creating and providing access to quality affordable housing enriched by the availability of supportive services.

Providence Housing develops, finances, and manages affordable housing for seniors, individuals with special needs, and families. Providence Housing is a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, New York.

Receive County Funds? YES - • In July of 1969, 50 years ago, Tempco Development Co. Inc. was formed. Tempco was started as a major social action project of Temple B'rith Kodesh. The founding members of Tempco were concerned about the plight of homeless families in Rochester after the 1964 riots and the unacceptable conditions homeless families faced in local hotels and shelters where they were placed. In addition, families were divided and not able to stay together which made a traumatic situation worse.

The founders of Tempco started Tempco Emergency Shelter with eleven homes in the Public Market area. These eleven homes are fully equipped for families to stay together, and funding and referrals come directly from Monroe Housing Department of Human Services. Support services are provided by Providence Housing.

• PHDC has a Rapid Rehousing Emergency Solutions Grant with Cares Act funding for 2021-December 2022 (and additional funds are anticipated). Between Sept 2021 and July 2022 36 households (80 people) are now housed.

• Between March 2021 and July 2022, PHDC received \$9,000,000 Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds and will complete our distribution of funds by August 2022.

Div. of Corp. N/A? no

Proposal Information

Project Name Door of Hope

Summary Door of Hope (DOH) is a Rapid Rehousing Program (RRH) serving hearing or deaf individuals and families where the adult head of household (HOH) is fleeing domestic violence (DV) or human trafficking (HT). The program will provide up to 1 year of rental assistance to the household and 2 years of support services from a full time Family Life Coach (FLC) with several years of experience locating housing for individuals and families fleeing DV and trauma. The FLC is also trained in deaf culture, has intermediate level of American Sign Language and an excellent working relationship with the staff at Deaf Ignite at Willow Domestic Violence Center. In addition, funds will be available for bus passes, Uber access, apartment application fees, childcare, RGE arrears to ensure RGE can be turned on in the HOH's name, High School Equivalency (HSE), trade education, ID and birth certificates for household members, professional translation and ASL interpreter services, lock changes and security system supplies (cameras, door/window alarms, window, and door locks/stoppers), furniture, household supplies and professional development skills. We will assist households in applying for benefits and connect them with educators and employment programs to help them achieve self-sufficiency. During the intake process, the FLC will work with the household on a safety/crisis plan, will utilize the attached Supportive Housing Assessment and Acuity Index to develop a service plan for household members and assess monthly for goal completion.

Workforce/Economic?	Health/Safety?	Infrastructure/Sustainability?
yes	yes	no

Description On July 21, 2022, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans declared a gun violence emergency in the City of Rochester. "Evans says the violence is the result of petty disputes between groups, fueled by social media, domestic situations and the illicit drug trade. However, the mayor says drug-related crime pales in comparison to the other two categories." <https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/gun-violence-emergency-declared-in-rochester/6530986/>

"The pandemic has laid bare the inequities that exist across our society, leaving vulnerable New Yorkers who were already struggling even further behind," Governor Hochul, NYS.

Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking have experienced increased isolation, increased abuse, and lacked access to resources during the pandemic. Abusers reduced victims access to services or services were not available during the height of the pandemic because offices were closed. Now, when we see an increase in DV and HT hotline and 911 calls, staff shortages and retention negatively impact the number and quality of services available. Inequities and barriers are even greater for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ, young adults age 18-24 and deaf DV and HT survivors.

Partners Ending Homelessness (the Monroe County Continuum of Care) currently has 127 literally homeless households on their Prioritization List. Of that 127, 28 (or 22%) are homeless and fleeing domestic violence. Our partners at the Center for Youth state 10% of the youth they serve each year are victims of DV or HT. THE CFY houses 70 youth annually and aren't meeting the youth housing needs in our community. In addition to the increase in DV and HT, the rental housing market is scarce (as a direct result of COVID 19 and the eviction moratorium). Landlords are increasing their rental amounts, requiring excellent credit, and requiring a renter make 3 times the amount of rent before being considered for an apartment. PHDC staff are working twice as hard to find safe and affordable housing and our relationships with landlords are critical right now. We have landlords that want to rent to PHDC program participants because they can depend on our staff to maintain regular contact with participants, provide ongoing services and be available to assist with any issues that may arise between the participant and the landlord.

The Door of Hope program plans to reduce barriers to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH – the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life) by requesting and providing funding to provide resources that contribute to safe and affordable housing, access to education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, access to childcare, access to language translation and American Sign Language interpreter services, environments free of life-threatening toxins and staff who are culturally competent. Resources that enhance quality of life and secure safe housing are critical to a person's health, dignity, safety, inclusion and have a significant influence on population health outcomes and economic growth and staff will work with program participants and community partners to make sure those resources are accessed and maintained.

This program will improve life skills, reduce recidivism of violence and homelessness, contribute to a productive workforce, and ultimately reduce the strain on local systems.

ARPA funds are a critical short-term response to disparities made more prominent by COVID 19. Project outcomes will be carefully documented using the Unite Us 360 Network and the Homeless Management Information System managed by Partners Ending Homelessness.

Each household will be in the program for 2 years. Within those 2 years:

- 100% Access to job training/trade program
- 80% Improved financial literacy (paying bills on time, managing a bank account, building and/or repairing credit)
- 75% Secure employment
- 75% Increase income
- 100% Securing safe, stable housing
- 80% Maintain housing
- 100% Increased access and utilization of healthcare (for self/children)
- 100% Increased connection to community supports (for self/children)
- 100% Children enrolled and regularly attend school
- 100% Access to reliable childcare
- 100% Obtain eligible benefits

During the first and second year of ARPA funding, PHDC staff and board of directors will be networking with local, state, federal and independent funding sources to discuss outcomes achieved, lessons learned, new resource, new partners and landlord relationships developed and provide approved first account feedback from program participants. In the second and third year, staff and the board will identify and build connections with additional partners and identify and complete applications for funding sources. Staff and board will also utilize networks, partners and outcomes to being independent fundraising efforts to ensure the Door of Hope program continues. Funding sources already being considered include United Way Community Impact Fund, William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, US Department of Justice Violence Against Women grant funds, US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs' Human Trafficking Programs, and The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program.

Company Strengths Providence Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) was founded in 1994 as a not-for-profit affordable housing developer, property management and human services organization serving Monroe County and the surrounding Finger Lakes regions. In the past 6 years, PHDC has doubled its size, going from 30 employees at the end of 2015 to over 60 in 2021.

Our Grants Program Department administers homeless assistance programs and grants and went from 2 permanent supportive housing and 1 support services grants in 2015 to being awarded 10 grants by 2022 and managing Tempro Emergency Shelter for families. We were also awarded ESG Cares Act funds from Rochester and Monroe County for a RRH program for 2021-2022. PHDC Program Department went from 2 full time employees in 2015 to 13 full time employees in 2022. Program funders include NYS OASAS, NYS OTDA, U.S. Dept of HUD, City of Rochester, Monroe County, M.C. Department of Human Services and Office of Mental Health. Our grants program director is actively engaged in several community work groups including being chair of the Homeless Services Network (HSN is a group of individuals who meet monthly to discuss strategies to best help the homeless in the Rochester, NY region. This group also serves as the stakeholder's group for the Continuum of Care in our community).

We often partner and collaborate with multiple agencies and landlords in the community to provide the best possible services to the households we serve. A chart of those partners, their contact information, and the services they provide is uploaded for this grant application. Some partners are also highlighted in the next question.

Community Resources PHDC is now a member of Unite Us 360 Network and will utilize this service to make (and receive) referrals to other partner agencies utilizing the Network. Unite Us will allow us to track progress of participants with partner agencies like Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rochester (also requesting ARPA funding). PHDC and CCCS have worked together for over a decade bringing financial literacy services to supportive services housing program residents. We are committed to continuing that connection and providing space for CCCS staff to provide workshops and individual skill building with all Door of Hope participants. These services will be provided free of charge to our participants.

Additional agencies we partner with who are also requesting ARPA funds include:

- MC Collaborative and Brightstar provided us with a letter of support. We work with MC Collaborative (and additional agencies that provide street outreach) to work with us to make connections with people staying on the streets but referred to our programs. MC Collaborative will assist DOH with shelter placement when necessary and Brightstar (when they have openings) will house women fleeing dv who need in house addiction service.
- We assist participants with making a connection at REOC and completing necessary paperwork and providing support while they go to school. REOC has provided a letter of support and we will continue to work with them to contribute to a dedicated workforce in Rochester, NY.
- We frequently make referrals for participants in our Shelter Plus program for treatment at Huther Doyle (HD). HD and PHDC staff collaborate to ensure the participant receives consistent and supportive services. HD and PHDC will continue to make referrals for the DOH program.

AVS Consulting Strategies (M/WBE) is a new resource for PHDC. Twice a year, AVS staff will give presentations to DOH participants, complete resumes and teach interview skills.

The Center for Youth will provide necessary services to youth ages 18-24 who are fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking. The CFY and PHDC have long been partners in the community and advocate for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing options for homeless youth. Homeless youth are much more likely to experience human trafficking as they may not feel safe in traditional shelters and therefore don't qualify for RRH and SPH HUD funded program as they don't meet HUD's definition of homelessness if they are not "in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation". The Door of Hope will allow those youth being trafficked to secure safe and stable housing through PHDC and receives support services through us and CFY.

Deaf Ignite at Willow Domestic Violence Center will be a critical component in service persons fleeing abuse who rely on services necessary for persons who are deaf. Ignite staff and our Family Life Coach staff have worked together often.

Remaining partners and resources are on the uploaded chart requested in a different question.

Audience The Door of Hope program will serve individuals or families fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking who are 18 years or older. The Family Life Coach is trained and has experience with persons fleeing violence and looking for housing and she is also trained in deaf culture and intermediate American Sign Language and works closely with Deaf Ignite at Willow Domestic Violence Center.

Despite higher rates of domestic and sexual violence within the Deaf community, Deaf survivors face barriers that prevent them from getting help. When Deaf survivors reach out for services and support and their needs are not met, their experience of trauma is compounded by the very systems and services that are intended to help. Most providers have limited to no exposure to the Deaf community and haven't received specialized training on Deaf culture or domestic and sexual violence within the community. Partners Ending Homelessness (or local Continuum of Care) has identified 28 people currently fleeing domestic violence who are looking for housing and the Center for Youth identifies at least 7 youth over the age of 18 who are fleeing dv or human trafficking. If the DOH program can provide housing for these households, that will free up valuable rapid rehousing and permanent housing slots in other programs for the homeless people on lists at those agencies.

Our partners and collaborators are very excited about the DOH program and the services it will provide. In addition to Willow and Center for Youth, our partners also receive calls from persons fleeing DV or HT and shelters (especially Willow) are often full and have a waitlist. The community is looking for additional options to meet this growing need and we have the experience, reliability, and culture competence to provide it.

Cost 1st Year	Cost All Years	Residents 1st Year	Residents All Years	FT Employees	PT Employees
\$655,728.00	\$2,087,808.00	76	228	1	4

Volunteers

3

Staffing FLC Stefanie DeBellis will be the full-time staff person assigned to DOH. Stefanie has her bachelor's in social work, has several years' experience working with individuals and families fleeing domestic violence and locating housing for those fleeing, experience working with children impacted by trauma, has trauma informed care training, deaf culture training and American Sign Language 1, 2 and 3 in college, 1:1 study with ASL interpreter and ASL 2 at Rochester School for the Deaf.

Kristin Clarke, Family Life Coach Supervisor has her bachelor's in social work, trainings in trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, NAMI certified. Kristin has run a rapid rehousing program for 500 households per grant year, 15 years working with the chronically homeless and worked alongside medical providers offering service during outreach to the homeless.

Tree Clemonds is the Grants Program Director and Director of Tempro Emergency Shelter. She has her bachelor's degree in social work, certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University and trained in trauma informed care and motivational interviewing. Tree has worked with the homeless population since 1999 and been an active member of the Homeless Services Network since 2000 and been the chair for the last year.

Finance Manager Joseph Hinds and Accountant Coleen Ford will process check requests, invoices, vouchers and manage all financial paperwork.