

HOME FOR ALL

February 2023 Newsletter

6-MONTH AHIP LANDLORD FEEDBACK

Last month we completed our 6 month survey of landlords participating in the Affordable Housing Incentive Program (AHIP). Our feedback from landlords highlight the importance of two incentives that landlords rated as the most influential in their decision to participate in the program. These incentives were:

1. **30-Day Hold Over Funds** which offset lost rental income due to periods of vacancy in order to accommodate tenant move in and/or delays associated with the voucher process.
2. **Grant Repair Funds** which help offset the costs of repairs required to meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards and pass inspections required by federally subsidized rental assistance programs.

Landlords identified these two incentives as critical to increasing landlord participation in assisted housing programs (i.e., Housing Choice Voucher Program and Rapid Rehousing) and increasing the number of affordable rental units available on the Seacoast.

By adding "voucher-ready" housing units on the Seacoast, AHIP helps reduce the length of time a household experiences homelessness and ensures that housing units are accessible to households requiring rental assistance to bridge the gap between their household income and cost of housing.

6-MONTH AHIP TENANT FEEDBACK

As part of our ongoing program evaluation, we began surveying AHIP tenants who have been housed for a period of at least 6-months. We will complete our tenant evaluations in June 2023, and plan to share the final data shortly thereafter. In the interim, we are pleased to share a few preliminary findings.

To date, we have had a 42% response rate among tenants who are eligible to complete the survey. The survey asks tenants about their satisfaction with their housing unit, the housing stability supportive services they have received, and their landlord. Tenants also were asked to share the impact that access to affordable housing has had for them and their family.



I no longer have to worry about where I'll be sleeping or if I'll be warm.

The top three components of housing stability services that AHIP tenants identified as most helpful were:

1. Access to financial and/or material goods assistance (e.g., gas cards, furniture for apartment, etc.).
2. Referrals and access to community and other social support services or programs.
3. Assistance navigating issues with their landlord or other tenancy concerns.

HOME FOR ALL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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LEADERSHIP SEACOAST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DAY 2023

On January 25th, Home for All joined other local housing and non-profit leaders on a Public Health Impact Panel as part of **Leadership Seacoast's** Health and Human Services Day. Home for All Director, Kara Rodenhizer, participated in this panel alongside Will Arvelo (**Crossroads House**), Jay Couture (**Seacoast Mental Health**), Kathy Crompton (**CAP-SC**), John Burns (**SOS Recovery**), and Kerry Norton (**Hope on Haven Hill**).

THE COMMON GROUND PROJECT

On February 8th, Home for All was invited to present at the Common Ground Project's February meeting. **The Common Ground Project**, led by **Dr. Bob Bear**, is a group of engaged community members who convene to discuss issues facing their community. The presentation helped their members better understand the incidence and prevalence of homelessness and housing instability on the Seacoast, promising possibilities to addressing these issues, and meaningful, focused ways to "take action."

NH LANDLORD INCENTIVE TASK FORCE

In October, the **New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority** convened the Directors of the public housing authorities throughout NH as well as non-profit organizations administering landlord incentive programs. From this meeting, a joint task force was created to advance the initiatives of the various landlord incentive programs and mapping of supportive services with the work being done by the Council on Housing Stability. Home for All Director, Kara Rodenhizer will be part of this task force, which kicks off its first meeting on February 14th.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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ADVOCACY ALERT

HOUSING CHAMPION BILL - SB 145

The hearing for SB 145 is scheduled with the Senate Commerce Committee on **Tuesday, Feb 14th at 9:30 am.** The hearing will take place at the State House in Room 100. A link to the bill can be found [here](#).

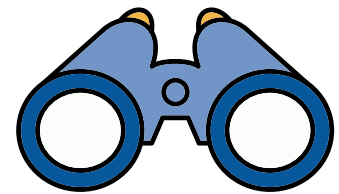
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED ON SB 145

Home for All encourages members to consider **supporting SB 145 by providing testimony in person or [online](#).**

To learn more check out the **NH Business Review**, which featured an op-ed on the **Housing Champion Bill**, written by the **Housing Champion Coalition**. The Coalition is made up of NH Municipal Association, Business & Industry Association of NH, NH Bankers Association, NH Lodging & Restaurant Association, NH Association of Realtors, and Housing Action NH. A link to the op-ed can be found [here](#).

Please keep an eye out for alerts from **Housing Action NH (HANH)** on SB-145 and other housing bills by visiting **HANH's [website](#)** or by following **@housingactionnh** on Twitter.

BILLS TO WATCH



Senate Bill 231

Establishes a historic housing tax credit; makes appropriations to the DHHS to support emergency shelter programs; and makes appropriations to the NHHFA and the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to support workforce housing and affordable housing. A link to the bill can be found [here](#).

A large turn out in support of this bill will be needed when it is up for hearing. Stay tuned.

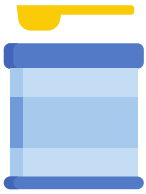
Fourplex Bill - HB 44

Requires that local legislative bodies permit by right certain single-family lots in residential districts to be used for up to 4 residential units. A link to the bill can be found [here](#).

This bill went before the **Municipal and County Government Committee** this week with the recommendation Ought to Pass (11-9) and now heads to the House Floor.

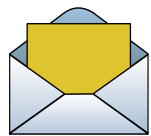
UPDATES & INFORMATION

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WIC Formula Waivers:

Please note, **February 28th, 2023** will be the last day for WIC participants to purchase non-contract formulas with their eWIC cards. Starting on **March 1st, 2023**, only Similac formula will be able to be purchased with eWIC cards (unless participants have medical documentation and require a specialty non-contract formula).



Does your agency work with individuals on Medicaid?

Continuous Medicaid Coverage is ending and it is very important that members complete their redetermination by **March 31, 2023** to prevent losing coverage. Keep an eye out for a yellow letter from DHHS and be sure to follow the instructions outlined in the letter, which may include completing the redetermination and/or providing requested verifications.

Medicaid members can complete their redetermination or provide requested information in one of four ways:

- **Online:** Via NH Easy account <https://nheasy.nh.gov>
- **By Mail:** Centralized Scanning Unit, PO Box 181 Concord, NH 03302
- **In Person:** Visit the Seacoast District Office located at: 19 Rye Street, Portsmouth New Hampshire 03801.
- **With the help of an enrollment counselor:** Please see below for contact information for counselors at Goodwin Community Health and the Families First Health and Support Center.

No longer eligible?

Individuals that are no longer eligible for coverage and need assistance obtaining health insurance on the Seacoast can connect with an enrollment counselor at the agencies below:

- **Goodwin Community Health** – Somersworth NH
(603) 749-2346 (ext. 2574 or ext. 2556) or enroll@GoodwinCH.org
- **Families First Health and Support Center** – Portsmouth NH
(603) 422-8208 ext. 3188 or enrollment@familiesfirstseacoast.org

Emergency SNAP benefits will end after February 2023 payment



Beginning in **March 2023**, the SNAP benefit allotment will revert to the household's pre-pandemic dollar amount (this amount can be found on household's determination letter). SNAP recipients will continue to receive their regular SNAP benefits on the 5th of each month, as long as they remain eligible. For more information click [**here**](#).

PARTNER NEWS & UPDATES

This month, **Molly Zirillo**, a member of HFA's leadership team and Executive Director of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Exeter** traveled to Washington D.C. for the 2023 Catholic Social Ministries Conference. While in D.C. Molly had the opportunity to network with other social service agencies and raise awareness with our legislators, **Senator Maggie Hassan** and **Congressman Chris Pappas**, around the issues of food insecurity and homelessness in the Seacoast.



Seacoast Mental Health Center (SMHC) is hiring!

Interested in a rewarding job and a supportive culture, as well as, being part of a behavioral health organization that rates the highest in the state for consumer satisfaction?

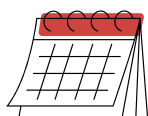
Look no further - SMHC currently has three full-time openings for the following positions: Housing Manager, Homeless Outreach Specialist, and Residential Counselor.

To learn more check out:

<https://smhc-nh.org/careers/job-openings/>

SAVE THE DATE

HFA 2023 MEETINGS



April 13th 9-11:00am
July 13th 9-11:00am
October 12th, 9-11:00am

**SAT
MARCH
11TH**

Hope on Haven Hill will be hosting their **Hope Springs Eternal Gala Fundraiser** at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel at 6pm. To learn more click [here.](#)

**FRI
MARCH
24TH**

Waypoint will be hosting their annual **SleepOut** to raise awareness and funds to end youth homelessness in NH. To learn more, sign up, or support click [here.](#)

FEBRUARY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Operation Blessing is a nonprofit organization that works with individuals, families, local churches, and social service organizations to serve the Seacoast community within a 50-mile radius of their Portsmouth, NH location. To help and support individuals and families in need, they provide food, clothing, and household items free of charge.

Additional services include: a drive-up and walk thru food pantry, mobile food pantry for elderly/disabled residents of Portsmouth, and provide non-perishable food and outdoor supplies (e.g., warm clothes, tents, batteries) to unsheltered individuals.

Hours: Wednesday- Friday from 10am-4pm and Saturdays from 9am-12pm. To schedule an appointment, call 603-430-8561 (walk-ins are welcome). For more information visit their website [here](#).

Additional resources offered at Operation Blessing include:

- **Seacoast Adopt-A-Block** is an outreach program, which serves the Seacoast on Saturday mornings from 9am- Noon through a variety of outreach projects and events, such as our Mobile Food Pantry, Homeless Camp Cleanups, One Day to Serve, Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, Christmas Gift Giveaway, and many more. Seacoast-Adopt-a-Block also provides opportunities for individuals needing to fulfill community service hours, whether educational or court appointed. To learn more, please click [here](#).
- **Greenleaf Recreation Center** facilitates after school, evening and weekend programs during the school calendar year for residents of the Portsmouth Housing Authority Wamesit Place. In addition to weekly family community dinners, they offer a fun packed 8- week summer program called Summer Kickoff and our end of summer Back to School Bash which helps families provide much needed school supplies for a successful school year. They also provide meeting space for other agencies working with families in the Seacoast area. To learn more click [here](#) or contact **Tammy Joslyn** at (603) 988-2671.
- **Emergency Warming Center:** Located at 600A Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH, is open anytime the temperature drops below 25 degrees. Hours of operation are from 7 pm until 7 am. For more information, please call **Tammy Joslyn** at (603) 988-2671.
- **The Cafe at OB:** is a meal center where anyone can come in for a warm nutritious meal on the weekends. The Cafe is open Saturdays 11am-12:30pm and Sundays, 3pm-4:30pm. For more information call **Tammy or Sharon** at (603) 430-8561.