

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and The Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Foundation

Baltimore, MD

Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors

Challenge

According to the National Aging in Place Council, over 90% of seniors say they would prefer to age in place instead of moving into senior housing; but there can be a significant gap between that desire and their ability to modify and maintain their homes. In Baltimore City, 17% of all older adults over the age of 65 live below the poverty level. Because older adults are more likely to live on a fixed income and experience limited mobility, they often have substantial unmet housing needs.

Innovation

Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS) is an innovative initiative created in 2015 to bring Baltimore City stakeholders, both government and nonprofit, in senior housing services together to remove barriers that prevent low income seniors from accessing services they need to age in place. HUBS includes 16 organizations in Baltimore City who work to fill the gap between maintaining healthy housing and independent living for older adults.

Overview

The existing Baltimore City Housing backlog of more than 600 low-income older adults waiting—some for as long as three years—to receive vital home repairs to their roofs, furnaces, and hot water heaters underscores the need for consolidated services for older adults. To eliminate this current backlog, and to ensure prompt service moving forward, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation partnered with the Stulman Foundation (the founding HUBS partner), the Hoffberger Foundation, the City of Baltimore, and numerous organizations to support the expansion of the HUBS program. Specifically, the Weinberg Foundation has committed \$3.5 million, which will leverage more than \$8 million in additional funding, including City and State dollars, creating a total program budget of nearly \$12 million.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

Baltimore Housing's Division of Green, Healthy, and Sustainable Homes, Maryland Energy Administration, Baltimore City Health Department.

OTHER PARTNERS

Civic Works; Green and Healthy Homes Initiative; Action in Maturity; Banner Neighborhoods; CHAI: Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.; Govans Ecumenical Development Corp.; Keswick Multi-Care; Meals on Wheels; Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore; Rebuilding Together Baltimore; Sinai Hospital Baltimore; Strong City Baltimore

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