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Seniors Benefit from Health & Housing at Visionary Square

[Visionary Square](#) is connecting low-income seniors to affordable health care services in Washington, D.C. Councilmembers Anita Bonds and Kenyan McDuffie helped celebrate the grand opening of the city's newest age-friendly building, as we welcomed more than 50 seniors to their new, affordable homes.



May 2016 Ribbon Cutting of Visionary Square
(photo credit DCDHCD).

[Loan Fund](#) worked with partners Israel Baptist Church and Mission First Housing to provide the capital they needed to purchase the land and do initial planning for Visionary Square. Our early-stage capital was critical in moving the idea forward, ensuring that seniors on fixed incomes are not forced to leave the city as rents continue to rise.

When seniors live in a home they can afford, it translates to cost savings and improved health. The benefits are clear:

- Seniors are able to spend an additional \$1,800 on health care annually
- Seniors are also four times less likely to visit the emergency room, reducing the burden on the city's emergency services and hospitals
- The government saves up to \$1,650 on Medicare and Medicaid per person each year

When Visionary Square residents need to see a doctor, they can simply walk next door to [Unity Health Care \(Unity\)](#) – a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) which treats patients regardless of their insurance or ability to pay. Residents can also walk to the Rhode Island metro station, multiple bus stops, a grocery store and local shops.

We hope the convenience and affordability of living at Visionary Square will improve the lives of D.C. seniors in the many years to come.

For more information on the health benefits and cost savings of affordable homes and FQHCs, read our [Social Return on Investment impact studies](#).

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