Section 4 Supports Springboard’s Innovative, Effective Program

Children growing up in poverty can face life-long challenges, with impacts that can carry through from generation to generation. While stable, affordable housing is an essential foundation, many families need additional support and services to break the cycle of poverty.

Springboard to Opportunities launched in 2013 with an innovative approach to helping individuals and families in affordable housing. Many of the residents they serve are African American, single mothers between the ages of 19 – 40. By providing tangible financial support, coupled with individual engagement and peer networks, Springboard helps residents achieve their long-term goals of financial security and economic stability.

Springboard used 2016 Section 4 funds to develop a business plan and establish a roadmap for its financial and business growth. In the past three years, Springboard has expanded rapidly from a pilot project to a resident service provider in eight communities across two states. In 2016, the organization increased its resident service programming by 48 percent in a three month period. Initially serving 2,500 low-income or extremely low-income residents in six affordable housing properties in Mississippi, they grew to add another 1,200 individuals in Owings Mills and Edgewood, Maryland.

Section 4 Capacity Building

The Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing program strengthens low-income urban and rural communities by providing flexible support to nonprofit organizations to develop affordable housing, finance small businesses, revitalize commercial corridors, and address community needs.

HUD Section 4 is the only federal program that exclusively focuses on increasing the effectiveness of local community development organizations.

Through direct financial assistance, training, and guidance, Section 4 helps these organizations to maximize their impact in communities and to provide essential, sustainable services to vulnerable families and individuals.

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Section 4 Funds Provide a Vision and a Roadmap for Expansion and Sustainability

Section 4 funds have enabled Springboard to create a smart, realistic plan for growth. The business plan will guide Springboard’s future through strategies on scaling, programming, marketing, organizational leadership, financial planning, and measuring success. As an early stage nonprofit, Springboard’s growth will benefit from a plan that establishes financial forecasting aligned to projected growth. One immediate outcome of the business plan included hiring a Chief Operating Officer to provide internal infrastructure support. This freed up the Executive Director to focus on the external growth, including branding, marketing, evaluation and fundraising. The organization now harnesses technology for resident outreach and has created a milestone tracking system to better monitor resident progress and outcomes.

Impact of Section 4 Support

Section 4 funds developed and implemented a comprehensive development plan for Springboard, detailing a financial strategy and an organizational growth strategy to maximize expansion opportunities.

Housing Security

Supportive services are a critical piece of keeping vulnerable families stably housed.

Springboard services particularly help low-income mothers stabilize their living situation and meet financial goals, which contributes to their long-term family stability, ability to pay rent and maintain their housing.

Economic Impact

Empowering affordable housing residents to set and achieve their educational and financial goals help them move towards economic security and self-sufficiency.

The program expansion provided 1,200 low-income residents in Mississippi and Maryland with supportive services to advance their opportunities in life, school and work.

Springboard has expanded to Edgewood and Owings Mills, Maryland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edgewood</th>
<th>Owings Mills</th>
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<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of families live in poverty</td>
<td>of renters pay more than 30% of their income on rent</td>
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Enterprise: A Partner from the Start

Enterprise has provided organizational development support to Springboard since its inception in 2013. In recent years, Enterprise encouraged Springboard to share best practices from their work with housing developers regionally and nationally. Through Section 4 funding, Enterprise connected Springboard with another New Orleans Section 4 grantee. This peer-to-peer learning exchange demonstrated Springboard has achieved the leadership capacity to support other community-based organizations that offer resident service programs.

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From the American Community Survey 2015 data