SECTION 4 RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing

Impact Summary
Created a resiliency plan that will protect the lives and property of 40,000 East Bostonians in the face of extreme weather

2016 Section 4 Grant
$30,000

Section 4 Outcomes
Developed a community-based disaster preparedness plan by increasing NOAH’s capacity to effectively engage East Boston residents in climate resiliency discussions

Private Funds Match
13 to 1 match ($375,000)

How Section 4 Funds Were Used
Supported key staff member salaries to increase involvement of low-income and minority residents and finalize a three-year implementation plan

Impact Summary
Created a resiliency plan that will protect the lives and property of 40,000 East Bostonians in the face of extreme weather

2016 Section 4 Grant
$30,000

Section 4 Outcomes
Developed a community-based disaster preparedness plan by increasing NOAH’s capacity to effectively engage East Boston residents in climate resiliency discussions

Private Funds Match
13 to 1 match ($375,000)

How Section 4 Funds Were Used
Supported key staff member salaries to increase involvement of low-income and minority residents and finalize a three-year implementation plan

Preventing Low-Income Coastal Communities to Manage Extreme Weather Events

Section 4 Helps a Coastal Boston Community Develop a Resilience Plan

Composed of five islands connected by landfill, East Boston is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and has been threatened by “once in 100-year” flooding events four times in the past five years. These events endanger the area’s 40,500 residents, many of whom are vulnerable, low-income ethnic minorities. They also threaten East Boston businesses, such as major commercial centers and Logan Airport, which are critical to the economy of the entire region.

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH) has been working since 1987 to provide decent homes for East Boston residents, directing $306.7 million in public/private investments to the region. Recently, NOAH has focused on making East Boston an extreme weather resilient community. It implemented the ClimateCARE program to pursue equitable climate planning through community engagement, and in 2015 received a 3-year $100,000 Kresge Foundation climate resiliency planning grant.

In 2016, Section 4 funding helped NOAH implement a critical component of the ClimateCARE program – strengthening community engagement through the ‘Supported Community Participatory Planning Model.’ NOAH also used grant funds to begin individualized climate mitigation efforts, and then leveraged these successful activities to win another $660K three-year implementation grant from the Kresge Foundation.

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.

Contact: Petra Montague
pmontague@enterprisecommunity.org

Preparing Low-Income Coastal Communities to Manage Extreme Weather Events

Section 4 Helps a Coastal Boston Community Develop a Resilience Plan

Composed of five islands connected by landfill, East Boston is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and has been threatened by “once in 100-year” flooding events four times in the past five years. These events endanger the area’s 40,500 residents, many of whom are vulnerable, low-income ethnic minorities. They also threaten East Boston businesses, such as major commercial centers and Logan Airport, which are critical to the economy of the entire region.

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH) has been working since 1987 to provide decent homes for East Boston residents, directing $306.7 million in public/private investments to the region. Recently, NOAH has focused on making East Boston an extreme weather resilient community. It implemented the ClimateCARE program to pursue equitable climate planning through community engagement, and in 2015 received a 3-year $100,000 Kresge Foundation climate resiliency planning grant.

In 2016, Section 4 funding helped NOAH implement a critical component of the ClimateCARE program – strengthening community engagement through the ‘Supported Community Participatory Planning Model.’ NOAH also used grant funds to begin individualized climate mitigation efforts, and then leveraged these successful activities to win another $660K three-year implementation grant from the Kresge Foundation.

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.

Contact: Petra Montague
pmontague@enterprisecommunity.org
Section 4 Funds Support a New Community Engagement Process

Section 4 funds supported the salaries of key staff who deepened NOAH’s program efforts to create a more inclusive, bilingual and sustainable climate resilience plan. This work included hosting information sharing events between residents, academia, decision-makers and public officials, as well as recording interviews with local stakeholders to inform city planning. In addition to traditional community outreach, Section 4 funds supported a three-consecutive-meeting method designed to deepen involvement of lower-income residents. Funds also allowed NOAH to broaden their focus to include storm-surge disaster prevention planning (while also including extreme temperature issues and greenhouse gas emissions). These efforts resulted in a three-year plan for storm-surge disaster prevention, for which NOAH was awarded a $660,000 Kresge Foundation Implementation grant.

Impact of Section 4 Support

The innovative neighborhood engagement strategies funded by Section 4 ensured that a diverse group of community members have a real stake in the resiliency plan that will help protect their homes and families.

Housing Security

Engaging residents in climate resiliency planning fosters buy-in and ownership on implementation.

The effects of past extreme weather events have disproportionately hit vulnerable and low-income families, causing displacement, homelessness, and stressing public welfare and disaster recovery systems. NOAH’s resiliency planning and implementation will help save the lives and property of the 40,000+ East Bostonians; some 10,000 of whom are especially vulnerable to flooding.

Economic Impact

Planning ahead to protect critical businesses and regional infrastructure can save many millions of dollars in the event of a natural disaster.

Implementing ClimateCARE will help lessen the impact of extreme weather to the 90,000 passengers using Logan Airport, 65,000 MBTA riders, and over 87,000 cars utilizing three underwater tunnels to and from other areas of Boston.

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing is based in Massachusetts District 7, where:

- 21% of people live in poverty
- 31% of renters pay more than 30% of their income on rent
- 9% of civilians are unemployed

From the American Community Survey 2015 data

Enterprise: Committed to Sustainability and Community Engagement

Boston is home to Enterprise’s Design Leadership program, including the Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship. The Fellowship leverages Section 4 to build the sustainable design capacity and improve the community engagement processes of community development organizations around the country. These programs, along with more than $2 billion invested in healthy and green affordable homes since 2004, are examples of Enterprise’s deep commitment to creating green, sustainable and affordable communities.

Contact: Alma Balonon-Rosen, ABalonon-Rosen@enterprisecommunity.org