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HOPE VI-Old Colony: An Evaluation

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HOPE VI-Old Colony: An Evaluation

Center for Social Policy

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Summary

The Center for Social Policy (CSP) is continuing its ongoing evaluation role with **HOPE VI**, a federally funded program operated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. **HOPE VI** allows public housing authorities to apply for funding to redevelop severely distressed housing developments. The Old Colony development is currently the most physically distressed site in the **Boston Housing Authority's** federal portfolio, with aged systems and infrastructure and high annual energy and water costs. This project began in January 2014.

Goals and Objectives

Redevelopment under the **HOPE VI** program focuses on: physical improvements, management improvements, and social and community services to address residents' needs. Phase one will include building up to 150 new units of housing and a new community center, as part of the plan for physical transformation matched by a comprehensive program of Community and Supportive Services.

The planning process includes participation from key stakeholders, such as Old Colony residents and the broader South Boston neighborhood.

Approaches and Methods

- Qualitative interviews with core partnering and second tier partnering agencies.
- Focus groups with residents moving into and out of housing in Old Colony, the resident Task Force, and residents serving as community outreach workers.
- Participation data at the community center.
- On-going technical assistance.

Results/Impacts

The evaluation contributes to knowledge about how best to affect the housing transition for public housing residents with a particular focus on understanding how partner agencies can work collaboratively in this effort.

Residents are scheduled to begin moving back into the refurbished housing in early summer.

Partnering agencies have developed close working relationships to support families with relocation, income stability, and community development.

Center Team

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For information on this and other **CSP** projects, please visit:

<http://www.umb.edu/csp>

References and Resources

Boston Housing Authority: Hope VI

<http://www.bostonhousing.org/detpages/deptinfo151.html>

Partnership Information

The **Boston Housing Authority** is the largest landlord in Boston and the largest public housing authority in New England. As such, the BHA houses approximately 10 percent of the city's residents through its programs. In addition to providing conventional public housing, the Boston Housing Authority also provides affordable housing through the administration of several rental assistance programs.

www.bostonhousing.org