Project Hope; Negotiation to Unify Advocacy for Successful Passage of Foreclosure Legislation to Protect Low Income Households in Massachusetts

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Recommended Citation
Friedman, Donna and Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston, "Project Hope; Negotiation to Unify Advocacy for Successful Passage of Foreclosure Legislation to Protect Low Income Households in Massachusetts" (2012). Office of Community Partnerships Posters. Paper 35.
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Summary/Abstract

Project Hope is a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families beyond homelessness and poverty. It provides low-income women with children served with access to education, jobs, housing, and emergency services; fosters their personal transformation; and works for broader systems change. The Center for Social Policy was asked by Project Hope to carry out collaborative action research to help them identify viable employment pathways, accessible in the neighborhood or through use of public transportation, for parents with children who have limited workforce experience and education. Together, the research involved: working with agency staff to survey families served by Project Hope regarding their workforce aspirations; analyzing employment and business data to identify business sectors likely to be seeking new entry-level workers; and consulting with the agency’s workforce development leaders regarding strategies for developing new partnerships with employers seeking workers with skills and aspirations like those of families served by Project Hope.

Goals and Objectives

To enable the community based organization to use solid evidence for its workforce development strategic planning.

References and Resources


Project Hope
550 Dudley St., Roxbury, MA
Phone: 617-442-1880 Web link: www.prohope.org

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Project Hope

Partners

The partners in this project include:
Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation
Project Hope, Inc.
Brandynn Holgate, UMass Boston, Center for Social Policy- Research Associate
Funding support: Fireman Foundation

Approaches and Results

For this project, the researchers employed Collaborative and Action research using analysis of secondary data, such as labor market and agency administrative data, along with interviews of a sample of employers in the area and a survey of families served by the agency.

As a result of this research, Project Hope, Inc is incorporating the data found to inform its workforce development strategic planning. Also, the Center of Social Policy Director is facilitating a planning process with the agency’s senior leadership and members of its Board to develop its outcome measurement system in ways that support ongoing learning and ultimately demonstrate the impacts of the agency’s interventions for policy, funding and community-based audiences.

Goals and Objectives

The goal is use analytical and facilitation expertise and resources to lead to united advocacy plan that would result in passage of state legislation to protect low income households from evictions due to foreclosures.

Partners

The Coalition for Occupied Homes in Foreclosure (COHIF)

References and Resources

• Planning Office for Urban Affairs, Inc.
  Phone: 617-350-8885
  Email: me@poua.org
  Web Link: www.poua.org

• Boston Tenant Coalition
  Phone: 617-423-8609
  Web Link: www.bostontenant.org