



Introduction

Families in Transition is a homelessness and housing provider headquartered in Manchester NH. Our mission is to prevent and break the cycle of homelessness through our services which include: two emergency shelters, one for 138 adults and one for 11 families (46 beds); substance use treatment services both in- and outpatient; a food pantry; and 240 units of low-income housing. We have over 30 years of experience in this work and last year we served over 14,000 vulnerable NH community members through these services.

Community Development Block (CDBG) Planning Grant

Families in Transition and our property management division, Housing Benefits, owns two low-income housing properties in Concord NH, 9 – 11 Odd Fellows Avenue and 5 Market Lane. Together these properties offer 16-units of low-income housing, along with laundry facilities, a community room, and space for a commercial business. Supportive case management services are provided to tenants to help support their housing stabilization, empowering tenants to increase their self sufficiency to the maximum extent possible.

In 2003 when this project was initially created, community rooms were an important part of the consideration when renovating the building. However, since that time a lot has changed regarding how services are offered to individuals and families with best practice now being to provide services within an individuals or family's 'home' and to follow the Housing First model of care to these tenants. Visiting a tenant in their 'home' helps ensure the individual/family is managing their home appropriately, that the unit is well cared for, and the tenant understands the responsibilities of taking care of themselves, as well as their space.

On top of community spaces that are underutilized there is commercial space at 5 Market Lane that was once used for the NH Coalition to End Homelessness, who no longer needs the space.

Families in Transition is seeking support from the City of Concord to apply for a CDBG planning grant of \$25,000 to hire an architectural firm to perform a space analysis on these two buildings. A space analysis would highlight any underutilized space/s that could be renovated into low-income housing. We all know that the need for housing is great, especially for our most vulnerable community members. If we were able to develop preliminary architectural and engineering designs and cost estimates through this planning grant, we would be able to utilize this information to seek further funding from CDBG, and other funders, in 2025.

With this support Families in Transition would be able to add critical housing units to support housing in the City of Concord.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Devlin
President & CEO