



Dorchester House
Multi-Service Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Ryan Gilbert
(617) 740-2515

Dorchester House Awarded \$12,500 to Support Food Pantry Operations & Alleviate Hunger

DORCHESTER, MA- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center was recently awarded \$12,500 in grants from Partners HealthCare and Project Bread to support our food pantry operations and food security in the community. Dorchester House takes great pride in being able to provide support to individuals and families in our community by providing food resource services.

President and CEO Walter Ramos Explains; “These generous grants from Partners HealthCare and Project Bread enable us to continue our goal of providing services to individuals who are facing hardships in the community.”

Through this funding opportunity from Partners Healthcare, Dorchester House will be able to help alleviate hunger in our patient population through two major strategies. Partners’ donation will support a voucher program for the health center’s food pantry clients. In the summer of 2015, vouchers in the amount of \$10 dollars will be distributed to each food pantry client family to be redeemed at the Dorchester House Farmers’ Market. This will facilitate access to fresh produce and fish, as well as supporting local farmers that provide the goods that are sold at the weekly market. Additional funds from the donation will increase access for patients to food security during the holiday season.

Our farmers’ market, though small and only open 2 hours per week over 14 weeks, reported one of the highest numbers of SNAP/EBT sales in the city. On average, our farmers’ market provides 50 types of fish and produce to 100 customers per day.

Project Bread has also awarded Dorchester House funding to support their food pantry operations. Dorchester House’s food pantry has been operating for over 20 years and services 1,400-1,500 individuals a month. In 2013, the Dorchester House Food Pantry distributed almost 255,000 pounds of food to clients living in Dorchester. Food pantry distribution occurs twice a week and clients are allowed to visit the pantry once a month.

The grant will also support the health center’s case managers in helping patients apply for SNAP (food stamp) benefits and connecting patients to food resources while awaiting benefits to commence.

“The goal of Dorchester House’s hunger prevention activities is to screen all patients for food security and then develop an action plan with patients that directly connect them to the appropriate resources.” explained Michelle Nadow, Chief Administrative Officer at Dorchester House.

ABOUT DORCHESTER HOUSE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

The Dorchester House Multi-Service Center is a federally qualified health center located in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester. The Dorchester House has provided essential healthcare, social services and wellness opportunities to the community for over 40 years. At Dorchester House we know that the health disparities in our community cannot be addressed through the treatment of individual, medically based issues alone. As such, we offer our over 22,000 patients extensive case management, financial and legal services as well as a number of community programs. By connecting our patients with comprehensive primary care, social services and in-house programs – all under one roof – we support the overall good health of our patients and build a stronger and healthier community.

