



Beacon secures full capital funding for Great River Landing supportive housing

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SUMMARY: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative has secured full capital funding of its Great River Landing supportive housing development for 72 adults who have previously experienced incarceration, homelessness and unemployment. The \$14.1 million cost is to be funded by Low-Income Housing Tax Credit financing from Minnesota Housing and the City of Minneapolis.

(SAINT PAUL, Minn.) Oct. 25, 2016 - Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative announces it has secured full capital funding of its Great River Landing supportive housing development. Minnesota Housing recently awarded part of the \$14.1 million cost in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit financing with the balance recommended for approval by the Minneapolis Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee.

The building will be located at 813 North 5th Street in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis near the Target Field transit station. It is to include single room occupancy and efficiency apartments for 72 adults, primarily African-American men who have experienced incarceration, unemployment, and homelessness; offices for staff; shared kitchens, bathroom and common space; and a playground for visiting children and grandchildren.

“We are very pleased that the City of Minneapolis and Minnesota Housing have prioritized funding to build Great River Landing. We’re also grateful to Plymouth Congregational Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church for their moral leadership and financial support to envision and create housing that will help to address some of the persistent racial inequities of opportunity in our city,” said Beacon Executive Director Lee Blons.

The supportive housing will be staffed by Better Futures Minnesota, an experienced service provider specializing in helping men find work, establish rental history and reconnect with their families. Each tenant will participate in onsite supportive services offered by Better Futures including job training, counseling and life coaching and health and wellness training.

Better Futures President and CEO Dr. Thomas Adams says that the partnership with Beacon will benefit the community in several ways.

“Great River Landing tenants will primarily be sons, fathers, and grandfathers. By implementing best practices for supportive housing for people who have been in prison, we will disrupt cycles of generational poverty, homelessness, unemployment and incarceration,” Adams said.

Adams noted that recidivism decreases significantly when people have housing and support to adhere to their goals, and furthermore, that public investment in such services saves taxpayer dollars and keeps communities safer.

Fundraising for the annual \$1 million cost of providing annual supportive services at Great River Landing is ongoing, and Beacon is working to secure 32 additional rent subsidies through the state’s Group Residential Housing (GRH) program. Already 40 of the units have been designated to receive project-based Section 8 subsidies. Subsidies keep rents affordable for low-income tenants; project-based subsidies mean that the subsidy stays with the building rather than the individual tenant.

Advocates hope to advance a bill called “Unlocking Opportunities” during the legislative session that would create creating dedicated funding for programs and services to support those facing barriers to housing and job access after incarceration.

Construction is estimated to begin in late 2017.

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About Beacon | Beacon is an interfaith collaborative of congregations committed to ending homelessness through housing development, shelter and advocacy. | www.beaconinterfaith.org or follow @BelieveInHome.

About Better Futures | Better Futures Minnesota is a social enterprise reducing the economic and social costs of high-risk adults, primarily men of color, with histories of imprisonment, substance abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, and homelessness. We believe every man engaged in Better Futures is important, valuable and has the potential to achieve a better future. | betterfuturesenterprises.com