

NEEDHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

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Needham Housing Authority (NHA) Awarded \$255,750 to Support Residents' Progress toward Economic and Housing Goals

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Announces 2023-28 ROSS Service Coordinator Grants*

Needham, MA -- December 30, 2022 – The NHA is proud to announce the award of a \$255,750 Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant from HUD. The funding will enable NHA to hire and maintain a new Service Coordinator to:

- Assess the needs of our Seabeds Way, Capt. Robert Cook Drive, and High Rock Estates residents.
- Coordinate the delivery of services, obtain supplemental services to address unmet needs; and
- Coordinate educational and/or community events that help residents achieve economic independence and stability.

This new Service Coordinator position also will assist NHA residents to make progress toward economic and housing goals by removing educational, professional, and health-related barriers.

The ROSS grant will support NHA for the next 3 years and is one of only 111 grants awarded nationwide, and only 5 awarded in Massachusetts public housing authorities this year. (There are approximately 3,300 PHAs in the USA.) More information about the 2022 Ross Grant Program may be found at HUD.gov or on the NHA website at www.needhamhousing.org

“Through addressing residents’ needs, we can increase stability in housing, health, and personal finance. Service Coordinators encourage a holistic approach to provide for the needs of public housing residents,” said **HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge**. “These Service Coordinators will play an important role in supporting residents, particularly the growing demographic of the disabled and elderly, as they gain greater independence within their communities.”

For NHA's elderly and or disabled residents this can also include enhanced opportunities to age in place and remain living independently for as long as possible.

Interim Executive Director of the NHA, Stephen Merritt said: “This is an exciting opportunity for the Needham Housing Authority to better serve our residents. From my years at the Norwood Housing Authority, I have seen the immense advantage that full-time Service Coordinators bring to a local housing authority community. This will help our residents in many ways.”

Needham Housing Authority Chairman Reg Foster commented: "Together with the recent Resident Services Coordinator award from the Mass. Dept. of Housing and Community Development, NHA enters 2023 with the most significant boost in resident services that's been seen in over a decade. Kudos to NHA staff for achieving a four-fold funding increase for NHA resident services."