

# **OPPORTUNITY BRIEF: IMMIGRANT HOUSING**

# MULTI-AGENCY EMERGENCY SHELTER PILOT

#### **OVERVIEW**

St. Louis has a rich history of regional growth and prosperity driven directly by immigrants, refugees, and families seeking asylum. Many find the support and services they need to thrive. These successes, however, can hide the lack of regional infrastructure and resources accessible to those who have been in the United States for a longer period of time, people who don't immediately qualify for federal programs, those whose needs cannot wait for eligibility verification, and people otherwise at the margins. Service providers and community groups developed by and for local international communities work tirelessly to fill the gaps for their neighbors already in St. Louis, and those who have just arrived.

Immigrant service providers have long highlighted the critical need for immigrant-friendly housing solutions, beginning with low-barrier, short-term shelter. A group of 17 organizations and collaboratives has come together, exploring four goals:

- 1. Meet their communities' need for short-term shelter this fall
- 2. Develop and refine culturally competent shelter resources
- 3. Integrate with existing housing support systems for a comprehensive continuum of care
- 4. Develop a sustainability plan for short-term shelter, including pathways to permanent housing

Partners will collaboratively pilot an emergency shelter for housing insecure members of their immigrant, migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities. Beyond immediate shelter this fall, the project will test and refine best practices for immigrant-friendly housing, clarifying the path to systems solutions. Long term infrastructure will likely involve immigrant-specific housing services, better integration of immigrant-friendly procedures within the larger continuum of care, and stronger coordination between the two.

#### Need **Problem** Intervention Regional shelters are over capacity. In Peter & Paul Community Services will operate a 40-bed emergency shelter on an empty floor of their N. Florissant Ave. building. Partners will refer clients and just one month this summer, over 300 people in St. Louis City and County **Emergency** sought a shelter bed when none was Shelter Beds available. Historically, this shortfall Welcome Neighbor will manage resident turns deadly with cold weather. support services. What does immigrant-friendly shelter really Even when a shelter bed is available, **Culturally** look like? This contained pilot will allow immigrant serving organizations report Competent partners to systematically evaluate the numerous barriers for their need and iterate best practices, resulting in **Safety Net** communities, from language access to concrete tools and procedures for further Housing prohibitive intake processes. implementation and/or funding. The region has historically tackled Integration Partners will explore and document 1) how homelessness and immigration as with Existing separate issues. On the whole, immigrant services are not well providers can connect their clients to existing short and long term housing Housing connected to the regional continuum of resources, and 2) where gaps persist. Resources care.

#### RRT'S ROLE AS THE PROJECT MANAGER

This 10-12 week project requires facilitative leadership to effectively develop, test, and refine strategies and best practices for serving immigrants through short-term housing. Project highlights and anticipated deliverables follow.

> Timeline: August 25-November 9, 2024

Facility Rental Cost: \$10,000 per month (temporarily prorated)

Renewable with Proof of Additional Fundina

**Anticipated** Number Served: 30-60

It is anticipated that 20 staff hours per week will be needed to carry out this project. Activities will include:

- Weekly coalition meeting planning and facilitation, to include agenda development, minutes, facilitation of decision making, delegation of action items, etc.
- Project management of project policies and procedures, and technical assistance developing them.
- Data management and co-development of an evaluation plan on program reach and impact.
- Implementation of the evaluation plan through partnership with caseworkers and other service providers.
- A compilation of successes, challenges, and investments made to illustrate 'what it takes' to keep this going.

#### **PARTNERS**

## **Contracted Project Leads**

- Peter & Paul Community Services (Facilities)
- Welcome Neighbor (Wrap Around Services)
- Incarnate Word Foundation (Seed Funder)

# **Project Manager**

• Regional Response Team (RRT)

## **Confirmed Contributing Members**

- Archdiocese of St. Louis\*
- Casa de Salud\*
- Catholic Charities of St. Louis\*
- Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
  Migrant Ministry
  STL\*
- Christian Friends of New Americans\*
- Program (IHELP)\*
- LifeWise STL\*

- Immigrant Service Providers Network
- MICA Project\*
- Monarch STL\*
- Oasis 4 Refugees\*
- Immigrant Home Learning English
  St. Francis Community Services\*
  - St. Louis University
    - \* Denotes Direct Service Provider

#### PROJECT PLAN

° Denotes Regional Response Team Involvement

# **PLANNING** Mid-July through Mid-September

Seed Funding is provided through Incarnate Word Foundation and Peter & **Paul Community Services.** 

Welcome Neighbor, Incarnate Word Foundation, and Peter & Paul Community Services execute Memorandum of Understanding.

Contributing Members develop program policies and procedures°. Project Leads play an advisory role.

Peter & Paul oversees facility readiness. Project Leads assess available resources°. Contributing Members secure resources to fill gaps.

# **IMPLEMENTATION** Mid-September through Mid-November

**Contributing Members** who work with international communities identify housing insecure clients, particularly families.

**Direct Service Providers** complete an **intake** and schedule a move-in Those w/ complex needs receive external referrals.

Residents are welcomed and oriented to the shelter. Welcome **Neighbor** leads day-to-day staffing and orientation.

Each family is paired with a Direct Service Provider for **case** management. They work to meet client needs, and connect them to other resources as needed.

> After four weeks, residents exit the shelter. (Process to be determined.°)

### **EVALUATION** Mid-September through Mid-November

**Project Manager**° meets with **Contributing** Members to co-develop evaluation plan.

**Direct Service Providers** leverage identified tools to assess ongoing effectiveness.

**Direct Service Providers** complete exit interviews with individuals. children & families.

**Project Manager**° convenes summative pilot evaluation session. Report, recommendations, and action plan developed.