



Neighbors Helping Neighbors | Throughout HUD's Region I, Vulnerable Communities are Served During COVID-19 Outbreak **#Inthistgether**

As communities combat the coronavirus outbreak, HUD is highlighting stories of communities coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Lowell, Massachusetts – Cooking is Chris Vasa's passion. He loves preparing "old school" meat and potato dishes, wears Emeril Lagasse shoes and dreams of opening a catering business one day. Until he does, you'll find him cooking for the homeless five days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Life Connection Center. Vasa, 24, came to the center by way of Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Vasa and his team would typically serve about 300 meals a week. That number has now reached 1,000 meals a week. [Read the full story at Lowell Sun](#)



[Photo courtesy of the Lowell Sun](#)

Boston, Massachusetts - Before the pandemic, the organization More Than Words provided job training and support to vulnerable young people by giving them the opportunity to manage the nonprofit's two bookstores in Boston and Waltham. The bookshops are currently closed, but More Than Words is pressing on with its mission: to empower and provide resources to youths who are in foster care, are homeless, or are court-involved by helping them take charge of their lives. [Read the full story from Boston Globe](#)



[Photo courtesy of More than Words](#)

Tiverton, Rhode Island - In response to the economic hardships many small businesses are managing due to the coronavirus, the Town of Tiverton is partnering with Providence-based Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to offer a new grant opportunity for qualifying small companies. The Microenterprise Stabilization Grant (MicroE), funded by the R.I. Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will contribute a single \$5,000 lump-sum payment to approved, eligible microenterprises located in Tiverton. Funds are being allocated to assist with operating expenses such as rent, staffing, and utilities. [Read the full story from East BayRI](#)



[Photo by Erik Scheel, Pexels](#)

Portland, Maine - The COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed down development projects by the Portland, South Portland and Westbrook housing authorities – among them, 499 units of housing for individuals and families in need are in the works. Portland and South Portland authorities were among 19 in the state to share \$2.45 million in federal CARES Act funding to help prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 in public housing developments. [Read the full story from MaineBiz](#)



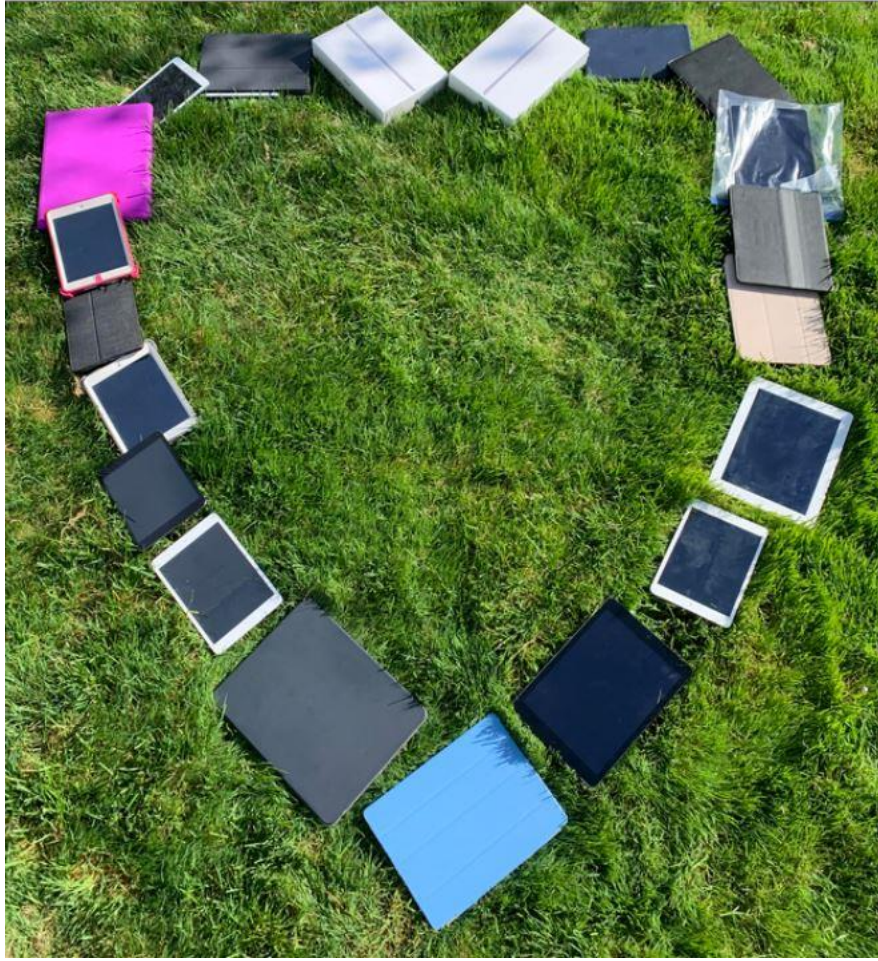
[Photo courtesy of MaineBiz](#)

Nashua, New Hampshire - The City of Nashua, New Hampshire, and Harbor Homes, Inc., received more than \$1.9 million in federal funds to help 45 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The funding is being offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program. It's part of more than \$35.8 million being awarded nationally. [Read the story at U.S. News and World Report](#)



[Photo by Anna Shvets, Pexels](#)

Greenwich, Connecticut - It's important for older adults to stay connected to friends and family but many of the residents at Parsonage Cottage, a division of the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich, don't have personal ipads or smart phones. Parsonage Cottage Senior Residence has been closed to visitors since March 9, and its longtime Executive Director Penny Lore knew she had to address how to keep the residents connected with the world. Since seniors currently can't have face-to-face contact with their loved ones, the next best thing is video chatting. Doing so utilizing a handheld phone is not ideal as the size of the screen is limited. A technology drive for iPads was discussed with Parsonage Cottage Fundraising Board, and Board member Mimi Santry went into action and reached out to the community. The generous donor network came through, and within just a matter of days, "There was an avalanche of support from several generous Greenwich residents," Santry said. [Read the full story from GreenwichFreePress](#)



[Photo by GreenwichFreePress](#)

Taunton, Massachusetts – During [National Homeownership Month](#), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded more than \$3.2 million in housing counseling grants to eight Massachusetts agencies to help individuals and families access HUD-approved housing counseling to help them avoid foreclosure and make more informed homebuying and rental choices. *“The Massachusetts housing counseling agencies this funding supports are crucial in helping families manage their money, navigate the homebuying process, and secure their financial futures,”* said David Tille, HUD New England Regional Administrator. [Read the full story at Taunton Gazette](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH 2020



To find HUD resources related to the coronavirus, visit www.hud.gov/coronavirus.

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