



Lena Park - Executive Summary - 2016 Community Investment Plan

About Us: Lena Park was founded in 1968 by concerned community residents who saw the need for affordable housing and youth development opportunities. Working with churches and community planning agencies, the group incorporated as Lena Park Housing Development and went on to develop and rehabilitate hundreds of affordable housing units in Dorchester and Mattapan. In 1970, Lena Park expanded into a multi-service community center, formally incorporating as the Lena Park Community Development Corporation (LPCDC) in 1972. In recognition of the value and importance of this new agency, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies transferred ownership of the YMHA Hecht House, at 150 American Legion Highway to Lena Park and it is where Lena Park's Community Center is located today.

Mission and Vision: Lena Park's mission for the 21st century is to provide integrated programs, services and access to resources that will help children, youth and families in the Lena Park catchment area and beyond build healthy lives, healthy families and a healthy community. Our vision is one in which youth have supports to achieve academic success that enables them to complete college and/or a career oriented job; youth and families have access to activities and recreation that provide alternatives to violence and that build positive youth development assets; and families have access to community, private and government resources and services that they can use to strengthen their families.

CIP goals:

1. Preserve, improve and expand the community's affordable housing assets.
2. Sustain and increase residents' access to and use of human services and promote community involvement and leadership in every aspect of community development.
3. Provide and expand opportunities for children, youth and adults to learn, earn, get and stay fit, expand their horizons and set and achieve goals.

The Board and staff are completing goal #1 by working with its partners to create new, quality affordable housing through expanding Olmsted Green I, II, III with Olmsted Green IV, V, and VI. Breaking ground in March of 2017, the three proposed housing developments include:

- 41 units of market and affordable rate home ownership developed under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program
- 100 units of moderate- to middle-income rental housing, so-called "workforce housing"
- 47 units of moderate- to middle-income homeownership housing

We are achieving our second CIP goal through a newly developed Youth Council and Youth Development Program serving 15-30 youth in those programs weekly. And we have developed regular resident meetings and community stakeholder meetings to ensure leadership and community involvement.

Thirdly we are expanding opportunities through the use of our new Community Center which opened in 2015. This includes 30 different programs/services such as our new EEC licensed After-School Program for up to 52 children in K-5 and a brand new Fab Lab and Tech Café offering opportunities in STEAM.