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LeadingAge Maryland Receives Enterprise 2024 Thome Aging Well Innovation Grant

Creating Sustainable Funding for Enriched Services in Affordable Senior Housing

Sykesville, MD- LeadingAge Maryland has been selected as an awardee of Enterprise's 2024 Thome Aging Well Innovation Grant. The project team led by LeadingAge Maryland, includes key leaders from Health Management Associates, Volunteers of American National Services, Bon Secours Community Works, and Catholic Charities of Baltimore, seeks to evaluate and develop a financing model that will enrich the services offered in affordable senior housing in Maryland. The project will continue through November of 2026.

"Healthcare and housing providers have shared goals. We are excited about this project because it will help us make partnerships more concrete," said project team member Jill Kratz, Manager of Services for Catholic Charities of Baltimore's Senior Communities.

The Thome Aging Well Innovation grants aim to cultivate transformative solutions to create resilient systems for current and future generations. Out of 148 applications, LeadingAge Maryland was one of 17 organizations selected for its exceptional vision and commitment to creating more equitable, joyful, and community-centered approaches for aging. The grant consists of two phases: a planning phase lasting up to six months with up to \$100,000 in planning support to each organization to allow for additional ideation, and an implementation phase of up to two years, and up to \$1 million with peer-to-peer connection and capacity building support offered throughout.

Funding necessary services is a top area of need for low-income older adults and the organizations who serve them. Project team member Sterling Brunson, Manager of Resident Services at Bon Secours Community Works, underscored how important this collaboration will be.

"Behind every account number is an actual human. This project will help us find better ways to fund the services our residents need to thrive," Brunson said.

LeadingAge Maryland's proposed model addresses barriers residents face in accessing health and social care, ensuring more low-income older adults have access to the services they need in their home, ultimately supporting improved health and wellbeing.

"Our project's key innovation is in identifying how to establish a 'hub' that would address this issue of volume by bringing together multiple affordable housing providers in the state and establishing a framework and infrastructure to support billing and reimbursement," said LeadingAge Maryland President and CEO Allison Ciborowski. "As health systems and payers are increasingly incentivized to support community needs and address social determinants of health, and as Maryland prepares for the new AHEAD model, it is vitally important that we ensure the needs of older Marylanders are included

and considered. Through this first of its kind initiative in Maryland, we will be evaluating and creating a plan for sustainable pathways to access funding for the services older Marylanders who live in affordable senior housing need most.”

Enterprise’s Stephany De Scisciolo, Vice President of Impact, Evaluation and Population Health, noted that social isolation and housing instability can have significant, adverse impacts on the health outcomes of older adults.

“As Americans live longer, it is more important than ever that we identify and invest in new approaches. We look forward to supporting the incredible work of our grantees and their commitment to a future where community care for older adults is readily accessible to all,” De Scisciolo said.

About Enterprise

Enterprise is a national nonprofit that exists to make a good home possible for the millions of families without one. We support community development organizations on the ground, aggregate and invest capital for impact, advance housing policy at every level of government, and build and manage communities ourselves. Since 1982, we have invested \$72 billion and created 1 million homes across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands – all to make home and community places of pride, power and belonging. Learn more at enterprisecommunity.org.

About Thome Aging Well Innovation Grant

These grants are part of Enterprise’s six-year, \$19 million Thome Aging Well Program to support older adults who live in affordable communities to age safely and securely at home. Funded by the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America trustee, the program has already touched close to 12,000 older adults in Michigan and Maryland through previous funding rounds to scale aging-in-place initiatives with a proven track record of impact.

About LeadingAge Maryland

Established in 2012, LeadingAge Maryland’s mission is to be the trusted voice for aging in Maryland and make the state a place where older adults have access to the services they need, when they need them, in the place they call home. A community of more than 150 not-for-profit aging services organizations provide healthcare, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons annually through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes, and home and community-based services. Learn how LeadingAge Maryland and their members are making Maryland a better place to grow old at leadingagemaryland.org.

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