



Photo Provided by The Medina Gazette

MEDINA CREATIVE HOUSING, INC.

16th Congressional District

Funding for “Transitions” Opens Doors to Independence for People with Disabilities

Medina Creative Housing (MCH) is developing a model project called “Medina Creative Transitions” that serves young adults, ages 18 to 30, who have disabilities including Asperger’s, ADHD, autism and learning differences. Similar to other successful MCH initiatives, the Transitions project offers an innovative combination of housing, supportive services, and opportunities for economic independence.

The project’s aim is to help residents reach their full potential by building the confidence, social and life skills needed to integrate into their community and become productive members of society. Because residents will be independent of their families, all will be very low-income.

In 2016, Finance Fund provided MCH with predevelopment and economic development grants totaling \$130,000. MCH also utilized \$550,000 in Finance Fund’s linked deposit program in combination with a \$550,000 small business loan provided through Finance Fund Capital Corporation.

“Medina Creative Housing has a long award history with Finance Fund and has successfully completed past projects that support the low- to moderate-income target market in the Medina community,” said Finance Fund CEO Matt Frank.

The Transitions project includes eight home-like efficiency units and a common kitchen, living/dining area, computer/study room, instructional and exercise area. The shared common space is designed to encourage residents to interact with each other and participate in social activities.

Through the year-round Transitions program, residents receive individualized social supports, career exploration via internships, and academic support for vocational training or community college. MCH’s employment opportunities include a property maintenance and construction business, a commercial hydroponic greenhouse, a coffee roaster, a doggie daycare, and a therapeutic horseback riding ranch. Transitions residents will change every two to four years as they complete their education and gain the skills needed to live more independently.

The project site is on public bus lines and within walking distance of a host of amenities, including the Cuyahoga Community College Brunswick University Center, a grocery store, drug store, post office, banks, restaurants, library, medical facilities, and the Brunswick Recreation Center. MCH will provide transportation in a handicapped accessible van to ensure its residents get to appointments and can be part of the community.

FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- Creates a supportive housing, education and social skills environment to enable young adults with developmental and physical disabilities to gain the skills needed to live independently.
- Helps create 24 full-time jobs and 25 construction jobs.



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