



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2009

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ABCD Launches New Site, New Program in Dudley Square, Roxbury!!

Stimulus Funds Bring New Site to Community with Cutting-Edge, ABCD Housing Initiative – HEART, Helping At-Risk Tenants

Dudley Square Office to Provide ABCD Benefits; HEART Program Stabilizes Families in Existing Homes.

(Boston) - On Wednesday, October 28, ABCD will celebrate two new additions to its many anti-poverty programs and facilities: a satellite site at Dudley Square and the HEART (Helping At-Risk Tenants) initiative.

Each new site and program will serve the Boston community at-large with various benefits to help low-income families maintain tenancy and sustain basic living essentials.

This new site will provide ABCD benefits in the heart of the Dudley Square community where many people need assistance. Located near the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), it will provide residents with ABCD resources such as workforce development, food stamps, fuel assistance, child care, holiday assistance, Mass Health, tax preparation, Summer Works, and much more.

“With economic stimulus funds we are able to open a new neighborhood site and better serve a community where there are economic needs,” says John Drew, ABCD Executive Vice President.

The Dudley Square office is also one of the four designated locations for the new ABCD Housing initiative, HEART, an “upstream diversion” program that targets at-risk families before they seek emergency shelter assistance.

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“We are helping the state alleviate the over crowded shelters and divert people from getting into that kind of crisis,” says Executive Vice President Drew.

Prepared to do double-duty, the ABCD Dudley Square office and the HEART program team up to provide clients with direct services, early intervention and alternatives to emergency shelter so at-risk families can maintain their tenancy in their existing homes.

HEART identifies families with early risk indicators such as low income, recent job loss, history of prior evictions, paying late rent and /or other risk factors before they become homeless.

It will provide the Dudley community with access to housing resources, financial literacy education, landlord and tenant mediation, housing court advocacy, and career training.

“We don’t have the resources to house people in this housing market, but we are helping people stabilize themselves temporarily and in their existing homes,” says ABCD Executive Vice President Drew.

In addition to the Dudley Square office, HEART is located in other Boston neighborhoods at the Ashmont office, and the Dorchester and Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Centers.

To receive any ABCD benefits, walk-ins are welcomed at the Dudley Square office or you can call 617.445.1417 to make an appointment. To apply for the HEART Program, you may call the dedicated HEART line at 617.348.6349 or email us at HEART@bostonabcd.org to make an appointment with a Community Housing Specialist.

About ABCD:

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High – an Alternative High School; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; Food Pantries in several Boston neighborhoods; management of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign (COBECC) and City of Boston Employees Charitable Campaign (COBECC); advocacy and consumer services.

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