



# community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

## Helping our residents in times of crisis

*“There’s a lot of anxiety and uncertainty, but there is also a lot of optimism.”*

Pelinda Deegan  
Housing Advocacy Program Manager, CDP



The corona virus pandemic has had a profound effect on the lives of members of the Lower and Outer Cape communities. First and foremost, the CDP is committed to keeping our residents and staff safe and healthy and to connecting residents with assistance during these difficult times.

Beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>, the CDP has responded to the public health emergency by taking extra measures to protect our residents and staff. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the CDP instituted a moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent and began to make bi-weekly contact with the more than 80 families who reside in the CDP’s affordable and community housing apartments. Residents have been connected with resources should they need further support.

In an effort to protect the health and safety of both residents and maintenance staff the CDP placed a hold on all non-emergency interior repairs until the State of Emergency is lifted. CDP Staff continue to make exterior repairs and emergency interior repairs while maintaining social distancing between staff and residents.

The individuals and families living in CDP housing are not immune from the economic hardship caused by the virus and in fact represent a demographic that has been disproportionately impacted by the public and economic crisis. Our residents are considered low to moderate income and many work at our favorite shops and restaurants. With the closure of non-essential businesses, several residents have been laid off or furloughed. CDP staff member Pelinda Deegan notes that, “Many residents were confident about being able to pay their April rent, but are less sure about May.”

Some residents have the ability to make their living from home while others work on the frontline as medical personnel. One individual who works in a care facility expressed particular concern about the

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lack of available medical supplies to keep themselves and their patients safe. “Like all of us, residents are adjusting to the safety guidelines and the new normal,” notes Pelinda.

For the past four years, the CDP has partnered with the Homeless Prevention Council to provide support services to residents of CDP owned and managed apartments. The Homeless Prevention Council (HPC) is uniquely positioned to assist residents with referrals to rental assistance and other programs such as SNAP benefits, fuel assistance and financial planning. Through the partnership, residents in need are connected with an HPC case manager who is able to assess the family’s needs and connect them with appropriate resource

“There’s a lot of anxiety and uncertainty,” says Pelinda, “but there is also a lot of optimism.” Residents have expressed their gratitude to the community for the support it has given to those whose lives have been disrupted. Several families have utilized the Nauset School District’s grab and go lunch service, and in April, CDP small business client Good Eats on 6 donated 25 pizzas to residents living at the CDP’s housing units in Eastham.

As the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt throughout the Lower and Outer Cape, the CDP will continue to take necessary measures to support our residents. Individuals who have questions, or need assistance should reach out to Property Management Manager Dawn Howard ([dawn@capecd.org](mailto:dawn@capecd.org)).