



community development partnership

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

Collaboration will better serve the community

“By working together, they strengthen their individual organizations, provide a stronger network of support for their clients and the community and serve as a model for how to increase impact through collaboration.”

Kristen O’Malley
President and CEO, Cape Cod Foundation

As many of us know, the Lower and Outer Cape region is distinct from the rest of Cape Cod. Rural and geographically spread out, it is more acutely dependent on a tourist-based economy, with a greater reliance on lower paying, seasonal jobs. In addition, the Lower Cape has high rates of second home ownership creating unique pressures on housing affordability. Add to this a long history of the region being underserved by public and private health, mental health and social service agencies, it is not difficult to understand why so many families struggle to thrive here.

To address these needs, in the fall of 2019 the Community Development Partnership entered into a collaborative alliance with Cape Cod Children's Place, The Family Pantry of Cape Cod, Helping Our Women, Homeless Prevention Council, Lower Cape Outreach Council, and WE CAN. The group named itself the Lower Cape Leadership Forum (LCLF) and has focused on deepening collaboration and expanding services and programs of each organization to better serve low-to moderate income (LMI) residents of the region. Together, these organizations serve more than 20,000 clients annually.

The ongoing efforts of the Lower Cape Leadership Forum (LCLF) have been made possible with grants from the Cape Cod Foundation, The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod Charitable Foundation Trust (The Coop Foundation).

In March, when the COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered the way all of us worked and interacted, the Lower Cape Leadership Forum shifted focus to sharing best practices in program delivery in response to the public health and economic challenges. Topics covered rental assistance, child care, resident safety, affordable housing, family support services, homelessness prevention, job skills training and advancing economic opportunities to support local businesses.

In this unprecedented time, collaboration and communication are more important than ever. Kristen O’Malley, President and CEO of the Cape Cod Foundation had this to say, “The importance of a collective such as this has grown exponentially as our community has grappled with the multi-faceted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. By working together, they strengthen their individual

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organizations, provide a stronger network of support for their clients and the community and serve as a model for how to increase impact through collaboration.”

In June, deeply concerned by the killing of George Floyd by police and in recognition of the injustices that are experienced by communities of color, the Lower Cape Leadership Forum released a joint statement committing to build and strengthen collective and individual capacity to combat systemic racism and address issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

To increase the competence of the staff and volunteers within each organization to address these important issues the Lower Cape Leadership Forum has engaged The Impact Seat, a consulting organization that supports organizations across sectors in understanding, embracing and implementing a science-based, social justice and strategic perspective of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). As a first step, the leaders of each of the organizations with participate in DEI training and coaching.

We are grateful for the support we have received for his ongoing effort as it will ultimately enable us to enhance the quality of our services to the low- and moderate-income families of the Lower and Outer Cape and for us to work on addressing dismantling structural racism within our organizations and in our program delivery.

