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Date 2023-09-13 16:30:23+00:00

Subject The Community Connection – September 2023

September 2023

Issue #4

Dear friends,

As we make our way into the latter part of the year, we continue to work towards a collective vision of a world made up of strong and resilient communities and individuals, confident in their potential and with ownership of their success.

This past quarter we've launched a brand-new website – offering a fresh new look, improved navigation, and high functionality; our housing team has partnered with several community-based organizations to expand access to financial assistance for renters; and we've participated in several community visits and outreach events, including welcoming Dr. Lanikque Howard, Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS), to tour a water system improvement project in rural Vermont.

In addition, our team has had quite the presence in Washington, D.C.! Back in June, I was at The White House representing RCAP Solutions as the Biden-Harris Administration announced over \$40 billion in funding to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet. More recently, Jenna Day, our Director of Development, testified in front of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy.

We hope you enjoy learning about these exciting initiatives and more in this quarter's edition of *The Community Connection*.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Scales, President & CEO

RCAP Solutions

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Board of Directors Spotlight

*Tracey Weeden, MSW,
LCSW/LICSW; RCAP Solutions
Board of Directors, Vice
Chair*

Tracey Weeden is the Executive Director of Brockton Behavioral Health Facility at Boston Medical Center and joined the RCAP Solutions Board of Directors in January of 2021.

She has extensive experience in the healthcare and nonprofit arena, with a background in administration, behavioral health, and

homelessness prevention. In her previous position as Chief Operating Officer for First Step of Sarasota, she focused on affordable behavioral health treatment and system of care optimization. She also has experience managing a private practice as a psychotherapist.

Full Story

RCAP Solutions Launches New Website

Check out our new website!

RCAP Solutions is proud to announce the launch of our new website!

Our organization is dedicated to providing the highest level of quality to our constituents. By updating our website, www.rcapsolutions.org, we offer a fresh new look, improved navigation, and high functionality.

Visitors will benefit from easily accessible

information on a variety of programs and services including links to important resources, access to necessary applications, calendars for upcoming trainings, and dedicated pages for the 11 states and territories within our service area.

Check it Out

RCAP Solutions Receives Community Impact Grant From Spectrum Health Systems

*Spectrum Health Systems
employees present RCAP
Solutions with a check at our
headquarters office.*

Thank you to [Spectrum Health Systems](#) for choosing RCAP Solutions to be a recipient of a \$5,000 community impact grant and presenting us with a check back in July!

We sincerely appreciate Spectrum's support of the communities, individuals, and families we serve – including

those in recovery. RCAP Solutions was nominated for the grant by Gina Carenzo, Office Coordinator at Spectrum's Millbury Outpatient Treatment Center.

[Learn More](#)

Join Our Team - We're Hiring

Achieve your professional goals while making a difference in the community!

RCAP Solutions is always looking to recruit talented individuals who are ambitious, creative, data-driven, diligent, passionate, proactive, problem-solvers, and committed to providing services to those who need them.

Are you one of those individuals? If so, check out our list of available career opportunities and apply today!

[Apply Today](#)

HOUSING RESOURCES UPDATES

Giving Opportunity - Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Fund

FSS provides support to housing choice voucher holders who dream of a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The [Family Self-Sufficiency \(FSS\) Program](#) provides supportive counseling, financial education, and credit success workshops to housing choice voucher holders who dream of a brighter future for themselves and their families.

By giving to our [FSS Fund](#), you will help provide clothing, school supplies, toiletries, pantry items, and other necessities to support hardworking families on their path to success.

You can create a brighter future for individuals and families who strive for economic independence,

workforce skills, and a better life!

**Make a Difference, Give
Today!**

RCAP Solutions Partnering with Several Community-Based Organizations to Expand RAFT Program Access Throughout Central Massachusetts

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) is a state-funded financial assistance program which helps keep families safely housed.

RCAP Solutions is proud to announce a partnership with [Valuing Our Children](#), the [Spanish American Center](#), and the [Worcester Community Action Council](#), which expands access to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program for individuals and families throughout Central Massachusetts.

Thanks to this partnership with these community-based organizations (CBOs), clients who are

unable to access or complete an online application may contact RCAP Solutions or one of these CBOs directly to schedule an appointment. During the appointment, clients will be guided through the application process. These appointments can be conducted in-person or virtually. **For more information, download our flyer: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)**

RCAP Solutions administers RAFT funds and provides application assistance to residents throughout Central Massachusetts, except for those living in the city of Worcester. Effective immediately, residents of the city of Worcester who apply for the RAFT program will have their application processed by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (see our [RAFT Service Area Map](#)).

[Learn More](#)

Our Team Participates in Celebration of the Region's Diversity and Conducts Community Outreach at CENTRO's Latin American Festival

*Representatives from RCAP
Solutions' housing
department at our table.*

In August, RCAP
Solutions was delighted
to attend [CENTRO's](#)
Annual Latin American
Festival – hosted on the
Worcester Common
Oval!

Our team participated in
the celebration of the
region's diversity and
provided information
about our housing
services; including
Subsidized
Housing/Section 8, the
SNO Mass program, the
Housing Consumer
Education Center
(HCEC), financial
assistance for renters
(the RAFT program), help
with finding housing,
home modification loans,
and more.

[View the Photos](#)

Our Housing Consumer Education Center (HCEC) is the First Point of Contact for Central Massachusetts Families in Need of Housing Support

*One-stop-shop for housing
counseling, supportive
programs, and referrals.*

RCAP Solutions serves as the regional Housing Consumer Education Center (HCEC) for Worcester County and a handful of surrounding towns and is the first point of contact for people in need of housing counseling, supportive programs, and resources. We assist tenants, landlords, homebuyers, and homeowners with a myriad of housing and homeownership needs.

Our goal is to ensure all families have safe, affordable housing and to support people in making informed decisions about renting an apartment, managing a rental property, and/or purchasing and maintaining a house.

[View the program](#)

**flyer, which outlines
our HCEC services and
more: [English](#) |
[Spanish](#)**

[Learn More](#)

Landlords and Property Owners - List and Lease Your Available Units

*RCAP Solutions is here to
support landlords and
tenants.*

The Section 8 Housing
Choice Voucher (HCV)
Program is seeking
participants who have
available units to lease.
All property owners and
landlords are encouraged
to participate, including
those currently renting to
HCV tenants! By
participating in the HCV
Program, we can help
you meet your financial
goals as a property
owner and provide
families with a place they
are proud to call home.

To market your available
units to potential HCV
families, visit

AffordableHousing.com

and select "List Your Property". You may also email information about your available units to:

RentalAssistance@rcapsolutions.org

In addition, landlords with units located in high-opportunity areas are encouraged to participate in the [SNO Mass Housing Mobility Program](#); participating in this program makes you eligible for an \$1,800 cash bonus (broken into two installments)! For more information, download our [SNO Mass Flyer](#).

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES UPDATES

**Brian D. Scales, our President & CEO, Attends
Announcement on Federal Broadband Initiatives at
The White House**

Our President attended this

event with THE President!

Our President & CEO, Brian Scales, was at The White House in June representing RCAP Solutions as the Biden-Harris Administration announced over \$40 billion in funding to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet!

The [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) grant program](#) was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will be administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce throughout every state and territory.

Many rural communities do not readily have access to stable internet. This historic investment in broadband infrastructure is essential for rural economic development. The internet is not just for email, it plays a key role in e-commerce, distance learning, telemedicine, banking, insurance, government, travel,

recreation, and more.

[View the Photos](#)

Jenna Day, our Director of Development, Testifies In Front of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy

Thank you to Senator Peter Welch and Senator Tommy Tuberville for coordinating this important discussion, and to the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) for hosting us!

In July, our very own Jenna Day, Director of Development, testified in front of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy! She was part of a conversation regarding the modernization of rural water systems.

Jenna represented the [Rural Community Assistance Partnership \(RCAP\)](#) network and discussed how RCAP continues to help communities apply for and leverage critical

federal funding.

She noted, "RCAP Solutions' funding application assistance and other related tasks helped communities in the Northeast and U.S. Caribbean receive 57 funding awards in Fiscal Year 2022 alone, resulting in over \$88 million in grants and low-interest loans. In this period our RCAP partners across the country leveraged approximately \$400 million in infrastructure funding."

[Read the Article & Watch the Video](#)

Coalition for Safe Drinking Water - Dr. Alan Woolf Talks Pediatrician's Perspective on Private Wells

The Coalition is advocating for "An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All" ([S.482/H.902](#)), which aims to provide drinking water protections for the 500,000+ Massachusetts residents who rely on private wells.

This testimonial features

Dr. Alan Woolf of Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Woolf, who is also a distinguished member of the [Coalition for Safe Drinking Water](#), provides a pediatrician's perspective on private well protections and highlights the increased risks children face when consuming water from contaminated sources.

A recent policy statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics, co-authored by Dr. Woolf, recommends, "for housing that has drinking water supplied by a private well, states are encouraged to require testing for coliforms, nitrate, fluoride, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and any contaminant of local concern when a dwelling is sold, and the results ought to be made available to the buyer before closing."

Watch the Video

Providing Technical Assistance to the Village of Wells River, Vermont to Improve Water System Operations

This testimonial features the village of Wells River, Vermont. The community has a population of approximately 400 residents.

The village of Wells River, Vermont recently completed a \$3.4 million water system improvement project.

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), RCAP Solutions has been working with the community to build capacity, maintain compliance with regulations, and to find additional funding for further system improvements, so that the village can continue to supply clean drinking water to its residents.

In May, we were joined by Dr. Lanique Howard, Director of the Office of Community Services

(OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), who participated in a walking tour of the village and engaged with representatives from the community to discuss the project and potential further investments.

[Watch the Video](#)

RCAP Solutions is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

Our mission is to foster personal and public self-reliance and improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and the communities in which they live.

RCAP Solutions, Inc. | 191 May St. Worcester, MA 01602 | 800.488.1969 | www.rcapsolutions.org

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