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April 2023

Issue #2

Dear friends,

As we make our way into the new year, many exceptional things are happening at RCAP Solutions. We continue to grow our staff, as highlighted in [Synergy](#); our Housing Consumer Education Center (HCEC) continues to be the first point of contact for Central Massachusetts families in need of supportive programs and resources; our team in the Caribbean has been in frontline meetings with USDA Rural Development leadership; new private well legislation has been filed in Massachusetts; and we recently traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual Fly-In advocacy event – marking our first in-person visit to the Capitol since 2020!

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

Sincerely,

Brian D. Scales, President & CEO

CORPORATE UPDATES

Board of Directors Spotlight

Henry Noël, Jr.

Henry Noël Jr., an Investment Director with Boston Impact Initiative LLC, joined the RCAP Solutions Board of Directors in November 2022.

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, Boston Impact Initiative is a nonprofit investing fund, working to build a future where entrepreneurs of color and their communities have the financial, social, and political power to create a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economy for generations to come.

Henry is a passionate champion of social and environmental impact and brings a robust background in business and fund development, investment, financial

expertise, strong team management and communication skills.

[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](#)

Education and Training Services

*"In learning you will teach,
and in teaching you will
learn."*

Workshops and trainings
and webinars, oh my!

RCAP Solutions provides
virtual and in-person
housing workshops,
environmental education
for the water and
wastewater sector, and
trainings for small
business owners.

Our events calendar is
full of upcoming
offerings. Register for a
class today!

Calendar of Events

HOUSING RESOURCES UPDATES

**RCAP Solutions is Proud to Offer the MassHire
Career Path Success Program to Section 8 Housing
Choice Voucher Holders**

*The Career Path Success
Program is a service that
provides employment
support to RCAP Solutions'
Housing Choice Voucher
participants and their*

households.

The job market is hot,
making this a perfect
time to build your
career!

If you're an RCAP
Solutions Section 8
Housing Choice Voucher
holder looking for
employment support, the
Career Path Success
Program is for you! In
collaboration with the
MassHire Central Career
Center, we can provide
voucher holders with a
pathway towards a
quality career and
increased self-
sufficiency.

We also offer several
other economic
opportunity programs for
Section 8 Housing Choice
Voucher holders and
Project-Based Voucher
recipients, including the
[Family Self-Sufficiency
Program](#) and the [SNO
Mass Housing Mobility
Program](#).

Learn More

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)!

[Learn More](#)

John and Rebecca's Story: Using Funds From the Home Modification Loan Program to Improve a Loved One's Quality of Life

John and Rebecca's old bathtub-shower was replaced with an ADA compliant barrier-free shower, improving her quality of life.

This testimonial highlights John and Rebecca. The couple had been living in their house for over 40 years when Rebecca was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. For several years the disease progressed. Rebecca began to use a wheelchair and John looked for new ways to make their home more accessible.

The [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\)](#) provided funds for an ADA compliant barrier-free shower, allowing Rebecca to take frequent showers with ease and giving John peace of mind knowing that his wife can cleanse safely.

[Full Story](#)

Affordable Housing Properties for Seniors, Families, and Individuals with Disabilities/Mobility Impairments

[This video](#) features testimonials from residents at Townsend Woods – one of our affordable senior housing complexes located in

Townsend, Massachusetts.

RCAP Solutions manages several affordable apartment complexes for seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities/mobility impairments. We have units in Athol, Bolton, Bolyston, Groton, Hubbardston, Northbridge, Townsend, Webster, and Worcester.

We offer on-site professional management, 24-hour on-call maintenance, and a resident service coordinator program, allowing residents to stay independent.

Our team of dedicated professionals strives to create healthy, comfortable, and enjoyable environments in which residents can be proud to call home. **If you or a loved one is looking for a new place to live, check out our full list of properties, download an application, and apply today!**

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES UPDATES

Proposed Legislation Would Enable Statewide Drinking Water Protections and Financial Assistance for Massachusetts Households with Private Wells

Unlike with public water systems, there are currently no statewide regulations to ensure private well water is safe from contaminants like PFAS, arsenic, radon, and more.

Proposed legislation, recently filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Representative Dan Sena, and Representative Smitty Pignatelli would enable statewide drinking water protections and financial assistance for Massachusetts households with private wells!

*An Act Promoting
Drinking Water Quality
for All ([S.482/H.902](#))
would enable the*

Massachusetts
Department of
Environmental Protection
(MassDEP) to develop
minimum statewide
water quality standards
for private wells and
would close an important
gap in access to safe
drinking water.

[Learn More](#)

Need to Repair or Replace Your Private Well or Septic System? Loans for Homeowners Are Now Available!

*Private well and septic
system loans available to
homeowners.*

The [Southeast Rural
Community Assistance
Project \(SERCAP\)](#)'s
Individual Household
Well & Septic Loan
products, which are
underwritten by USDA
Rural Development,
provide low-interest (1%)
loans to eligible Low-to-
Moderate Income (LMI)
homeowners for the
repair or replacement of
an individual household
well or septic system.

[Click here](#) to view the program flyer, which outlines the loan eligibility criteria.

SERCAP has partnered with RCAP Solutions to make this program available to homeowners in RCAP Solutions' service area; Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, the program is offered in SERCAP's service area; Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

[Learn More](#)

RCAP Solutions' Caribbean Team Participates in USDA Rural Development Stakeholder Meeting with Secretary of Agriculture

*RCAP Solutions elaborated on
how we help small
communities access funding
for necessary infrastructure*

upgrades and improvements.

In early January, RCAP Solutions staff in the Caribbean participated in a USDA Rural Development stakeholder meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas Vilsack.

The purpose of the meeting, which was held in Puerto Rico, was to discuss the importance and impact of the Rural Partners Network (RPN) with community groups and economic development officials. The RPN was launched in April 2022 by the Biden-Harris Administration to help people living in rural areas access federal funding and resources to create thriving communities.

[Full Story](#)

RCAP Solutions' Staff in Pennsylvania Discusses Water Auditing & Leakage Management on Podcast

In 2022, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission awarded RCAP Solutions \$454,522 in grant funding to provide water auditing assistance to small utilities in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

In early March, our very own Sukh Singh, Pennsylvania State Manager, participated in the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission's](#) "River Currents" podcast.

Joined by our friends from Cavanaugh & Associates, P.A. and Kunkel Water Efficiency, we discussed water loss solutions and auditing for small utilities. In addition to environmental impacts, water loss results in revenue loss for these water utilities – thanks to our partners, we're here to help with this.

[Listen Here](#)

Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) 2023 Fly-In

Check out

[#RCAPOnTheHill2023](#) on social media to view photos from the event!

Earlier this year, representatives from RCAP Solutions and the entire [Rural Community Assistance Partnership \(RCAP\)](#) network traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual Fly-In advocacy event, marking our first in-person visit to the Capitol since 2020!

We had many successful meetings with congressional offices and elected officials to discuss the importance of sustainable water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure for rural communities.

In Fiscal Year 2022, our Community & Environmental Resources division positively impacted more than 417,500 individuals, serving all six New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin

Islands.

[View Our In-Depth
StoryMap](#)

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.

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