



JUNE 28, 2023

Nearly 1,200 voters pick projects worth up to \$1 Million in Central Providence



Nearly 1,200 people cast their ballots in the state's largest participatory budgeting initiative, choosing projects totaling \$1 million to help improve the health and well-being of their neighbors in Central Providence. The Nine Neighborhood Fund led the project, and from June 6-20 voters picked large and small projects to fund.

“There is no better exercise in representation than an election,” said Anusha Venkataraman, Managing Director of Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone. “I was so inspired to see such great community turnout and sincerely hope that other organizations and communities replicate the work we’re doing in Central Providence.”

Some of the major projects approved include providing **bathrooms and plants** in Donegan and Davis parks, providing **peer mental health training** for high school students in 02908/02909 zip codes, providing **water filters** to remove lead from water and providing education about lead safety, and **improvements to bus stops**. In total, those projects are projected to cost \$880,000.

In addition, voters chose four small projects, including **life skills classes for youth**, **food bearing tree planting**, **soccer for youth**, and **bike distribution and repair**, for a total projects cost of \$120,000.

Of the 1,187 people who voted, 923 were cast in person at 30 voting pop-up locations in Central Providence, while 264 were cast online at DecideRI.org. In addition, more than 200 young people voted for the first time in an election. Voting was encouraged for everyone 13 and older.

[Read More About This Initiative](#)

HOUSING

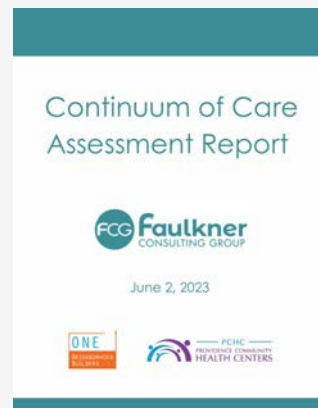
New report shows housing can reduce health care costs in Rhode Island



Panelists at our Fresh Fridays session on June 9 included, from left, top row: **Deb Faulkner**, President of Faulkner Consulting Group and **Christopher F. Koller**, President of Milbank Memorial Fund; middle row: **Grant Porter**, a senior consultant with the Faulkner Consulting Group, and **Tom Douglass**, Director of Finance ACO, Providence Community Health Centers; bottom row: **Grace Evans Pedanou**, Chief of Staff at ONE|NB, and **Jennifer Hawkins**, President and Executive Director of ONE|NB.

About 70 people joined our virtual Fresh Fridays session on June 9 to learn how permanent supportive housing can lower Medicaid costs and improve health outcomes for people who were formerly homeless.

The discussion featured a new report commissioned by ONEINB and Providence Community Health Centers that showed Medicaid costs were 43% lower among Rhode Island Medicaid members who were connected with supportive housing than individuals who remained in shelters.



“We’ve known for years that individuals experiencing homelessness have some of the most complex and expensive medical needs. We’ve also known that housing is the foundation for better health outcomes,” said Jennifer Hawkins, the President and Executive Director of ONEINB. “This report validates our call for more affordable housing and shows that our state’s housing crisis is also a health care crisis. Rhode Island can reduce Medicaid costs by doing more to help individuals living in shelters find permanent supportive housing.”

Read the full report and watch the Fresh Fridays panel discussion below.

[Download the Report](#)

Watch the Panel
Discussion

TEAM HIGHLIGHT

ONE|NB Team Member Chosen for Global Health Corps Fellowship



Dennis Hermida-González, Housing Programs Manager at ONE|NB, has been chosen as one of 30 public health leaders for the **Global Health Corps** 2023-2024 US Fellowship cohort.

This highly competitive fellowship connects emerging leaders in public health across the U.S., providing coaching and mentorship to deepen their impact and influence on U.S. health systems. Congratulations, Dennis!

Read About the Program and the
Fellows

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Many thanks to **United Way of Rhode Island** for supporting our work through the Community Impact Fund. This grant will help us strengthen our role as the backbone of **Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone**, where we work to improve the health and lives of Central Providence residents. [Read More](#)



United Way of Rhode Island

ONE|NB IN THE NEWS

The Boston Globe

R.I. Asked Ordinary People How To Spend Over \$1m On Their Neighborhoods. Here's How That Process Could Be The Future.

The Public's Radio

Interviews Jennifer Hawkins On 2024 Budget And Housing Needs



CHARTERED MEMBER

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Help us develop affordable housing and engage neighbors across Greater Providence to cultivate healthy, vibrant, and safe communities.

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