

Lowell Sun

Nonprofit agency gets \$75G grant for housing

By Caitlin McGuinness, Sun Staff
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LOWELL -- Bridgewell Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting people with life challenges, has received a \$75,000 grant to help build safe and inexpensive sober housing for men and women recovering from substance abuse.

The funding is part of a \$390,000 grant given to Massachusetts communities by the Center for Community Recovering Innovations Inc., or CCRI, a nonprofit subdivision of the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency that creates and preserves affordable, sober housing.

"Affordable, sober housing is an extremely valuable resource that is sorely needed across Massachusetts," said MassHousing Executive Director Thomas Gleason. "These grants are a small investment compared to the immeasurable benefits they produce to the men and women who use affordable, sober housing as an important steppingstone back to being healthy and productive members of society."

Bridgewell Inc. will use the grant, as well as federal and state money, to help build 12 single-room units for men and women as a part of the Pathfinder Apartments II, doubling the number of units currently on 94 Rock St.

Construction has already begun, and the apartments are scheduled to be ready for use in October, said Elaine White, the central administrator of senior management for the Pathfinder Apartments. "The city of Lowell is working diligently to end homelessness," White said. "This project is a huge step in the right direction."

As part of living there, residents at the Pathfinder Apartments are offered a variety of assistance, from finding medical providers to transitional employment opportunities.

CCRI to date has awarded more than \$4 million in grants for sober housing in more than two dozen Massachusetts communities, providing at least 1,000 units of substance-free housing for men, women, families, veterans, the homeless and ex-offenders.