

### **Lynnfield-Based Bridgewell Receives \$1.7M Housing Grant**

August 21, 2010 — Bridgewell, a Lynnfield-based provider of services to adults with disabilities on the North Shore and in the Merrimack Valley, will use a new \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to build a 10-unit apartment building in Lynn to house residents with developmental disabilities.

With a resident manager on site, the building will enable individuals with developmental disabilities and physical challenges to live independently. Its nine residents must be referred to [Bridgewell](#) by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

The home will be built on property destroyed by fire two years ago. It sits on land owned by Bridgewell.

Bridgewell was one of just two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 programs recently funded in Massachusetts. In the nation, 169 were funded – six in New England.

HUD's 811 program provides persons with disabilities the opportunity to live independently in their communities by increasing the supply of rental housing with the availability of supportive services. The program provides money in the form of capital for development and rental subsidies.

This award is Bridgewell's third Section 811 grant in three years, and it cements the organization's reputation, said Bridgewell's Chief Executive Officer, Robert S. Stearns. "This grant indicates that Bridgewell is clearly seen—on both state and federal levels—as a leader in the disabilities arena."

Bridgewell has a long track record with HUD, including support for recent projects in Merrimac and Danvers. It also recently completed a 12-unit apartment building in Lowell for the homeless, which was funded by a 2003 McKinney Vento award from HUD.

Bridgewell's other HUD-funded services include a Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher program, which assists disabled persons to find safe clean affordable housing, as well as a Shelter Plus Care Program and an SRO Mod Rehab Program.

Overall, the organization provides services to nearly 3,000 individuals in eastern Massachusetts.