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**TUFTS HEALTH PLAN FOUNDATION INVESTS \$80,000 TO DELIVER SUPPORT AND SERVICES AT HOME
TO RESIDENTS AT SAINT ELIZABETH PLACE IN PROVIDENCE**
Program aims to improve health outcomes for vulnerable older adults

WATERTOWN, MA — The [Tufts Health Plan Foundation](http://www.tuftshealthplan.org) announced today an investment of \$80,000 to Saint Elizabeth Community in Providence, Rhode Island, to pilot WellCare, an initiative that coordinates care to help older adults living in subsidized housing manage their chronic diseases and live independently. By integrating health services across community-based organizations, the program improves access to care for vulnerable populations.

“We invest in partnerships that bring together diverse leaders from business, nonprofits, government, and the community to address community needs,” said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president, corporate citizenship for Tufts Health Plan. “These initiatives are inclusive, led by community, and represent true cross-sector collaboration. By leveraging Foundation resources, grantees can implement promising practices and proven strategies—and accelerate progress.”

Based on the well-regarded Support and Services at Home (SASH) model developed in Vermont, WellCare relies on a multi-disciplinary team of health care and community service providers who meet monthly to coordinate care. The goal is to improve health outcomes for older adult residents and save costs. The program has been shown to improve clinical outcomes, reduce hospitalizations, and reduce the cost of care. A recent evaluation of the SASH model reported an average savings of \$1,700 to \$2,100 per Medicare member each year.

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation funding supports the pilot at Saint Elizabeth Place in Providence, an affordable apartment building for independent seniors and adults with mobility impairments. There are 149 apartments in the section 8 building which is subsidized by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Saint Elizabeth Community has 12 RI locations, offering apartments for independent seniors, home care services, adult day centers, affordable assisted living, skilled nursing, and rehab care. For more information visit www.stelizabethcommunity.org

The group hopes to expand the initiative to additional locations over the next two years, and eventually expand to a network of housing providers.

“This pilot project will establish a healthy living and disease prevention program that supports seniors’ desire to live independently in their home. Each senior will have a healthy living plan and the support of a Wellness nurse and coordinator,” said Steven J. Horowitz, president and chief executive officer of Saint Elizabeth Community.

The one-year grant will also support staff recruitment and training and a train-the trainer component to facilitate replication at other locations. Saint Elizabeth Community has already initiated conversations with potential partners.

Part of the Foundation’s [Systems and Best Practices](#) focus area, the Providence investment aligns with the Foundation’s support for age-friendly communities by improving access for vulnerable older adults.

In all Tufts Health Plan Foundation announced 12 new grants engaging nearly 300 community organizations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island for a total community investment of \$1.8 million.

About our grant program

How are grants awarded?

Tufts Health Plan Foundation reviews grant applications twice a year. Interested organizations can submit a letter of inquiry using the online system at tuftshealthplanfoundation.org/WHAT?. After the LOIs are reviewed, staff will invite full proposals. Systems and Best Practices grants are announced in June. Policy and Advocacy grants are announced in December. Letters of inquiry for the Policy and Advocacy grant cycle are due on July 20, 2016.

About the Tufts Health Plan Foundation

Established in 2008, the mission of Tufts Health Plan Foundation is to improve the health and wellness of the diverse communities we serve. Through its community investments, the foundation has given more than \$21 million to Massachusetts and Rhode Island nonprofits that improve healthy living with an emphasis on older adults. The Foundation has begun funding in New Hampshire this year. The Foundation funds programs that move communities toward achieving age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on the most vulnerable, and include older adults in the process. Visit www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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