

Mother's Day 2022!

Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) has always assisted clients with housing issues – how to deal with an eviction notice, needed repairs that recalcitrant landlords wouldn't make, and how to understand aid available to complete rent. We have circulated lists of subsidized housing when wait lists or lottery processes open up.

The pandemic, however, really made MCHA staff step up our assistance. In the last two years, we've assisted thousands of clients – screening them for housing adequacy regardless of what they contacted us for, but especially for those community members with COVID-related needs. The pandemic rendered hundreds of thousands unable to work due to sickness or layoffs and who owed months of back rent. The ordinances, regulations and laws passed crossed multiple jurisdictions and left us all scratching our heads, how they stopped and started and were extended, but only in certain geographic areas. MCHA held numerous virtual meetings for clients with housing agency experts. We hand-held through on-line applications, helping people learn how to photograph and upload documents and how to establish an email if they wanted to or were required to. We notified people of deadlines and subsequent extensions to deadlines. We applied for homelessness assistance for people losing their homes.

We received no less than four grants for food, shelter and other needs and spent no less than \$126,000 directly for back and current rent owed, adding to our grant funds our own discretionary donated dollars. Here's how we helped Nora:

Section 8 - looking for an apt in _____. Nora asked me to look on the internet because she has no internet on her phone, and her sister who helps her with a lot of things, cannot use the computer either. I found two apartments she can go look at. Both are Section 8 and in her price range. Fingers crossed she can get one of them. There are very few in that area.

This year, MCHA is also facing a housing change. Sometime in the fall, we will be moving to a new location! Our current site is being run into the ground, with no elevators for our fourth-floor walk-up, a huge issue for clients with strollers, pregnant women and for our staff! We are looking forward to our move, but not to the increased costs. Despite being willing and able to downsize our space, rents have increased. We won't be able to move some of our furniture and other items and will need to purchase new/used. The move itself is expensive. We are hoping to have a new, modern training room (and hoping we can meet or provide hybrid trainings virtually and in-person).

Our funds this Mother's Day will help support housing needs for many moms and contribute toward our own move. A grant we are waiting for requires us to contribute our own 50% match. Your dollars help with that.

Please consider a \$26, \$260 or \$2600 donation for our 26 years of existence! We hope we can celebrate in person with you soon and we thank you for your support!