

# National Community Development Week | April 6-10, 2026

Take a moment to learn from our community partners about the programs and activities that Portsmouth Community Development Block Grant supports!



## AIDS Response Seacoast (ARS)

ARS provides medical case management and support services for persons living with HIV in our community.

"ARS has been able to serve people living with HIV in our community for almost 40 years. In this past year, one story stands out. This client came to us after a week-long hospital stay where he was diagnosed with late-stage HIV, requiring surgery and follow up with multiple specialists. He was unable to work, and his husband had to take a leave of absence to care for him. They were terrified about how they would afford medication, put food on the table or pay rent.

Thanks to case management funding from Portsmouth CDBG, ARS was able to respond immediately. We helped them remain safely housed, ensured they had enough food, connected him to a program that covered all medication costs and linked them to additional community resources. Today he is healing well, surrounded by a compassionate healthcare team and preparing to return to work.

Thank you to Portsmouth CDBG for believing in our work and helping us continue to be a source of strength, safety and hope for our community." - Tamara Leibowitz, Executive Director



Case Management Services at ARS. Image: Courtesy of ARS

## Community Action Partnership Hillsborough & Rockingham Counties (CAPHR)

CAPHR prevents homelessness through short-term rental assistance.



"CAPHR's Resource Center in Portsmouth offers programs designed to help eligible individuals and families achieve economic stability, including workforce development, energy assistance, financial literacy, and the City of Portsmouth's Short-term Rental Assistance. Across New Hampshire, a persistent challenge is the limited availability of safe and affordable housing. CDBG funds administered by the City of Portsmouth enable CAPHR to provide critical relief to individuals and families who are working to remain housed. [...] With the average monthly rent in Portsmouth just over \$2,000/month, recipients have expressed deep gratitude for the support that enabled them to stay in their homes. CAPHR extends sincere thanks to the City of Portsmouth for awarding this CDBG funding and for its continued partnership and commitment to strengthening housing stability for Portsmouth residents." - Beth Gilbert, Fuel Assistance Program Director

## Cross Roads House (CRH)

CRH provides transitional and emergency shelter for unhoused community members.

"CDBG funding supported the installation of mini-splits in the dining room and resident living areas, keeping the shelter cool and comfortable during the warmer months - [additionally] with CDBG funding, Cross Roads House expanded hot water capacity in the shelter by installing an additional water heater." - Bridget Thompson, Associate Director of Advancement



Upgraded hot water heater. Image: Courtesy of CRH.

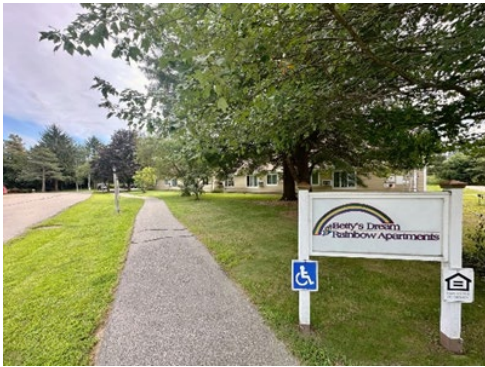
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## Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA)

PHA is a community leader in making quality affordable housing available for low- and moderate-income Portsmouth residents.

"Our most recent CDBG-supported project was the installation of a new roof at our Betty's Dream property. Betty's Dream is a 24-unit apartment building specifically designed to serve individuals with physical disabilities, and this improvement was essential to protecting the integrity of the building while ensuring a safe, comfortable, and stable living environment for residents. Projects like this highlight how impactful CDBG funding can be in helping us preserve affordable housing and continue serving some of our community's most vulnerable populations."

- Mary Bartlett, Executive Operations Manager



Outside view of Betty's Dream apartments. Image: Courtesy of PHA.

## Greater Seacoast Community Health (GSCH)

GSCH provides medical and dental services to everyone regardless of circumstances or ability to pay.



Dental patient at GSCH office in Portsmouth. Image: Courtesy of GSCH.

"The City of Portsmouth and the U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grant Program fund Greater Seacoast's Dental Center in Portsmouth, which served 1,015 patients through more than 4,400 visits last year. This funding helps ensure that patients who might not otherwise access dental care can receive regular preventive and restorative treatments in a dental home."

- Helen Long, Grant Writer

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## Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels (RNMOW)

RNMOW provides nutritious meals via home delivery for elderly and disabled persons.

"When one of our delivery drivers began delivering to a female client's home in September, she barely opened her door. She was timid and shy and deeply fearful of leaving her house. A hand would quietly slip out, just enough to grab the paper bag holding her daily meal.

Continuing into the fall, something shifted. One day, she opened the door a little wider, her eyes meeting the driver's for the first time. "Look," she said softly, a small smile forming, "I have the door open."

As time passes and her confidence grows, she can now be seen waiting on the ramp outside her home; a wide smile lights up her face as she waves when the driver arrives. She still doesn't go out—groceries are delivered, and her world remains close and quiet. But those few minutes every day, standing there in the open air, have become her way of showing that she's still moving forward.

Each delivery is more than just a meal. It's a connection, a moment of trust, and a step toward something more. Little by little, with the familiar sound of footsteps and a kind voice at her door, she's finding comfort and courage. Baby steps, as they say—but every step counts" - Deb Parker, Marketing & Development Manager



Delivery Driver, Martha, delivers to Portsmouth residents. Image: Courtesy of RNMOW.