

Builders Program Fights Displacement

Repairs help 12 longtime residents stay put

A Portland Housing Bureau grant to a community development non-profit is providing some critical home repairs to mitigate displacement of longtime homeowners in north and northeast Portland.

REACH Community Development, Inc. is using a \$110,000 grant from the Housing Bureau to help 12 longtime homeowners retain their homes and remain in their communities. The award is part of the city's North/Northeast Neighborhood Housing Strategy — a five-year plan addressing the ongoing threat of displacement and gentrification in the neighborhoods that comprise inner north and northeast Portland. The REACH Community Builders Program is an example of work being done to address this issue with low income residents.

Lack of funds to make repairs to critical home systems like roofs, plumbing and siding, often lead to someone losing their home. Through this grant, REACH is helping households retain their homes in an area of Portland that has experienced significant displacement of long-time community residents.

All homeowners currently enrolled to receive critical repairs under this grant have lived in their homes for at least 25 years and 82 percent are African American, officials said. These homeowners will receive up to \$9,500 worth of repairs to help them retain homeownership.

For Charles Adams, a 68-year-old resident of inner northeast Portland, the repairs included the installation of a wheel chair/accessibility ramp, replacing a failing water heater and replacing a broken storm door. In order to maintain his homeowner's insurance, work was also being done to repair a chimney and install a chimney cap, replace damaged and missing siding, repair a fence, demo a failing garage and repair cracks on a front walkway and driveway.



Critical home repairs, including a wheel chair/accessibility ramp, give long-time resident Charles Adams the ability to stay in his inner northeast Portland home. Adams, 68, is pictured in front of the crew that recently performed some of the needed construction.

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