

# The Committee for Boston Public Housing Inc.



“The *Committee for Boston Public Housing* is valuable for the city because it empowers tenants to take control of their living space and to develop a community that really works for everybody there.”

Hubie Jones–Senior Fellow, Mc Cormack Institute

## **CBPH**

100 Terrace Street, Suite B  
Roxbury, MA 02120  
Tel: (617) 427-3556  
Fax: (617) 442-6139  
Email: [cbph@verizon.net](mailto:cbph@verizon.net)

## History

The Committee for Boston Public Housing, Inc. (CBPH) was founded in 1981, during the period when the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) was in receivership, to increase the involvement of public housing tenants in decisions affecting their housing and their lives. CBPH and tenants in public housing developments across the city of Boston created initiatives to address the most pressing needs and concerns in public housing communities: job training, food distribution, transportation, adult literacy, child care, youth education and recreation, and family support.

Today, CBPH operates tenant leadership and organizing projects, which are issue-focused and are based in developments citywide. Through community organizing, leadership development, and coalition-building CBPH empowers Boston's public housing residents to identify and effectively address social justice issues. In CBPH, residents develop their leadership skills by accessing education, training, technical assistance, and the opportunities to take on leadership roles in the organization and their communities. **CBPH's programs address tenants' rights, unfair housing policies and processes, economic insecurity, neighborhood violence, childcare, employment, and health problems tied to building and environmental conditions.**

## Mission

The mission of the Committee for Boston Public Housing is to improve the quality of life for Boston's public housing residents through organizing, advocacy, and services to achieve social, environmental, and economic justice.



**Tenant Coordinating Committee**

### **Tenant Leadership Project**

The goal of *Tenant Leadership Project (TLP)* is for an organized constituency of residents of family public housing to influence BHA policies and procedures to make them fairer to the approximately 23,000 residents. CBPH operates the TLP, which is made up of three programs. The *Action Against Asthma (AAA)* program is a community-based empowerment program that address environmental justice issues related to health, the environment, and housing. The *Tenant Empowerment Program (TEP)* educates and organizes residents and local tenant organizations (LTO's) to address unfair housing policies and procedures. And the *Community Education and Training Department (CETD)*, which works to increase the knowledge and skill of residents to increase the effectiveness of CBPH's community organizing.

### **Tenant Empowerment Program**



The TEP offers assistance, and gives support to the Board of Directors of LTO's with matters such as BHA and HUD policy changes, conducting elections, and helping LTO's become formally recognized. This program operates through the Tenant Coordinating Committee (TCC). The TCC is a group of resident leaders from around the city of Boston who work to build a stronger voice for tenants in policy making at the local, state, and federal levels. By helping foster and develop TCC and Resident Advisory Board (RAB) elections, CBPH brings together public housing tenants from across the city to develop a common agenda, build a stronger voice for tenants in policy making, and share ideas.

### **Community Education & Training Department**

The CETD provides workshops and one-on-one support to the LTO's to empower them with the skills necessary to address local problems themselves. This work also helps build the TCC, and thus strengthens residents' ability to affect public policy, which affects public housing residents citywide. Without the activism of a diverse and unified group of residents from across the city, the BHA would be able to implement policies without meaningful input from residents who analyze the policies from a tenants' rights perspective.

### **Action Against Asthma**

The goal of the Action Against Asthma program is to work with residents to establish asthma as a high priority environmental justice issue, develop resident environmental justice activist, raise the awareness and knowledge of environmental justice issues among the general public housing population, and demonstrate residents' power to improve environmental conditions in their homes and their communities.

### **Healthy Public Housing Pest Free Initiative**

The Healthy Pest-free Housing Initiative is a public health initiative aimed at improving the health outcomes and quality of life for Boston public housing residents, particularly those who have family members with asthma. HPHI determined that, to be effective, integrated pest management must address the underlying problem of pest infestations, and that we must educate property managers, pest control applicators and residents in the process. The program offers assistance to residents to help maintain pest-free environments without reliance on potentially harmful chemicals



### **Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI)**

CBPH conducts non-partisan voter registration through-out all of their programs. We register residents to vote and provide registration forms in various languages, we provide residents with; one on one or group education on the voting process inform residents on their voting rights.

