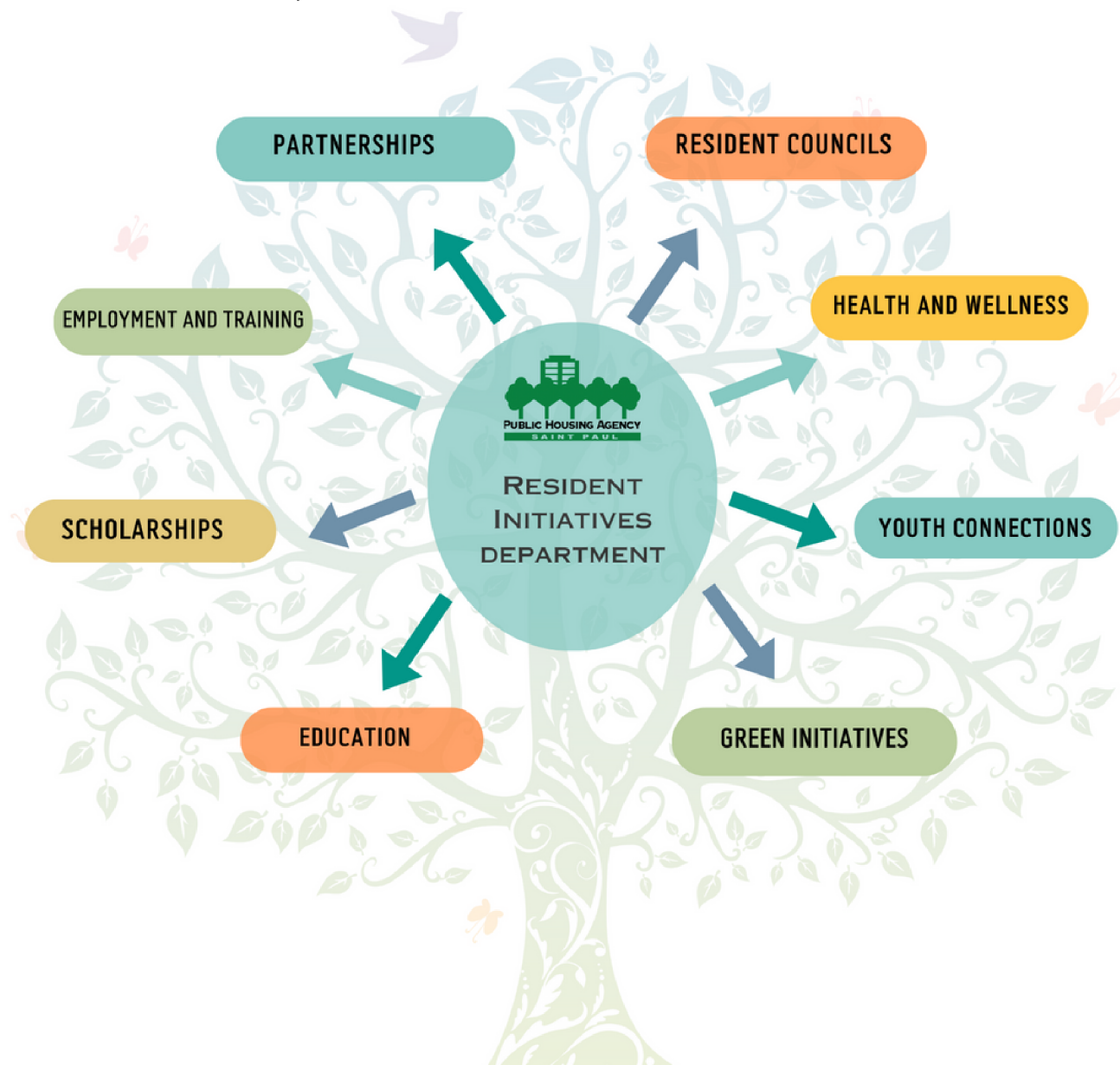


RESIDENT INITIATIVES

Opening a Window to Opportunity

The PHA's Resident Initiatives Department works to strengthen the Agency's role and participation in all contracts, grants, partnerships and programs that promote supportive services, and resident economic development and self-sufficiency. The department is also charged with evaluating the PHA's participation in current supportive services programming, and determining where programming might be expanded based on need and available resources.



Mission Statement

"The PHA helps families and individuals with low incomes achieve greater stability and self-reliance by providing safe, affordable, quality housing and links to community services."

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Resident Initiatives supports and encourages healthy eating, active lifestyle, tobacco reduction, mental wellbeing, and social connection for residents.

HIGHLIGHTS

Crosswalk Safety - Residents provided guidance to the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County for crosswalk improvements along Marion Street, Timberlake Road, and Ames Avenue. Each year, residents participate in Stop for Me Crosswalk Safety events with the Saint Paul Police Department.

Healthy Food - Twin Cities Mobile Market grocery store bus brings affordable, nutritious food to 10 PHA sites each week. The Sanneh Foundation delivers monthly meal kits and food boxes to family sites. The University of Minnesota Extension offers cooking classes.

Bicycle Access - PHA has partnered with Free Bikes 4 Kidz since 2012 to connect 2,430 youth and families with a bicycle and helmet. Bicycle Alliance of MN offers free bike repair at PHA sites and connected 51 hi-rise residents with a bicycle, helmets, lights and lock in 2023.

GREEN INITIATIVES

Resident Initiatives promotes sustainable environments and sustainable communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Gardens - All 20 housing sites offer gardening opportunities for residents. Since 2012, Ramsey County Master Gardeners have taught on-site garden classes and trainings. PHA partnered with Rebuilding Together MN to build 21 garden beds in 2023.

Resident Recycling - Hi-Rise Resident Recycling Coordinators assist with educating residents about recycling and enable recycling to be accessible. MN Waste Wise Foundation hosts on-site recycling trainings.

Tree Planting - PHA is collaborating with Frogtown Green to increase St. Paul's urban tree canopy. In 2023, PHA & Frogtown Green planted 32 shade trees at Mt. Airy Homes. PHA will continue to seek out opportunities to plant more trees.



EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Resident Initiatives works with residents to find employment, job skills training, and education by providing links to community organizations and direct programming.

HIGHLIGHTS

Small Business Development - Since 2016, African Economic Development Solutions has provided on-site training for residents who are interested in starting a small business. 57 residents have graduated from the program and several are in business for themselves today.

Scholarships - Between MicroGrants and the PHA Section 3 fund, Resident Initiatives has administered over \$31,500 in scholarships and grants since 2016 to help residents bridge gaps in funding for continuing education and certifications.

Job Skills Training - Twin Cities Rise is a long-standing partner of the PHA. They offer residents on-site courses covering topics like 21st Century Workplace Skills, Emotional Intelligence and Personal Empowerment.

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Resident Initiatives coordinates on-site programming and links to services that positively impact academic success, promote the joy of learning, and provide leadership, employment and educational opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Science Fairs - Science Museum of Minnesota hosts science fairs at the family sites every summer introducing hundreds of youth to the fascinating world of STEM.

Art Classes - From the Art Bus and KidCreate, to NAHRO's "What Home Means to Me" poster contest and resident run art classes, youth enjoy the fun and community of creating art together.

Literacy - Summer Reading activities, the Free Little Libraries, and the Book Buggie all offer youth the opportunity to explore the world of books while improving their vocabulary and comprehension skills.



RESIDENT COUNCILS

Resident Councils work to increase resident involvement in their public housing communities, and empower residents to take action to achieve personal goals of self-sufficiency.

Each of the 16 hi-rise buildings and 4 family sites has a resident council. Residents receive updates from the PHA, St. Paul Police Department /ACOP and other organizations, and plan activities that benefit their residents.

The Presidents Council is made up of representatives from the 16 hi-rise councils. The Presidents Council meets monthly to discuss and vote on business that may affect the operation of the 16 hi-rise councils.

The City Wide Residents Council is made up of representatives from the 4 family sites. The City Wide Residents Council meets every other month to discuss and vote on business that may impact residents of the 4 family sites.

PARTNERS IN OPPORTUNITY

Partnerships are at the center of Resident Initiatives work.

- AARP Minnesota
- Active Living Ramsey Communities
- African Economic Development Solutions
- Allina Health
- Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
- Avivo
- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- Boys and Girls Club
- Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
- City Wide Residents Council
- City of Saint Paul
- Como Community Council
- COMPAS Arts
- Concordia University Physical Therapy Department
- Dispute Resolution Center
- Dress for Success
- Eureka Recycling
- Every Meal
- Family Means
- Free Bikes for Kidz
- Friend's School of Minnesota
- Friends & Co.
- Frogtown Green
- Head Start
- Hiway Federal Credit Union
- HourCar
- Keystone Community Services
- Metropolitan State University
- Metro Transit
- Microgrants
- Minnesota Carpenters Union
- Minnesota Children's Museum
- Minnesota Community Care
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation
- Mississippi Creative Arts
- MORE Empowerment
- Presbyterian Homes
- Presidents Council
- Ramsey County
- Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy
- Rebuilding Together Minnesota
- St. Anthony Park Community Council
- Saint Paul Police Band
- Saint Paul College
- Saint Paul Police Department/ACOP
- Saint Paul Public Schools
- Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- Sounds of Hope
- Sprockets
- The Food Group
- The Free Book Buggie
- The Sanneh Foundation
- Tickets for Kids
- Trellis
- Twin Cities Rise
- Twin City Mobile Jazz Project
- Two Men and a Truck
- United Healthcare
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Volunteers of America
- Workforce Innovation Board
- YouthPrise