



Upper Valley Services Grant Report

Second Quarter Report: 1/1/24 - 3/31/24

1. Update on suitable housing locations and collaborate with other partners to ensure the project remains within constraints and continues through completion:

UVS in partnership with Downstreet Housing continues work to develop the Water Street property in Randolph Center and to advance the Waterbury apartment project. Both projects are progressing on schedule.

2. Update how Downstreet Housing and Community Development pre-development activities on the Water Street location to ensure progress is being made and there is collaboration, assigning roles, delegation tasks and effective communication:

The RFP process launched in January 2024 yielded a pool of qualified candidates for the architecture services and was awarded to Greg Montgomery, Osso Studio based out of Waterbury VT. Work completed this quarter on the Water Street Projects include:

- Appraisal of property.
- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and hazardous materials tests.
- Historical Preservation site visit and report to advise on how renovations must conform to maintain historic integrity. This process may additionally an Archaeological Consultant to assess the property.
- Energy consulting to determine the best way to increase the energy efficiency of the property.
- Zoning consultation to understand how to best proceed if required to go to the Development Review Board for approvals. Randolph has a Zoning Administrator, and the village of Randolph Center also has a DRB so this property will interface with both.
- Draft and reach agreement on project goals to guide decision making during the design and construction of 45 Water Street.
- Civil and Structural engineer site visit and assessments.

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- Preliminary floor plans for the main house first and second floor and a plan to convert downstairs of the garage into a one-bedroom accessory dwelling unit. All reviewed by team and with representatives from one family.
- Families and UVS clients involved in the Housing Options work group toured the house and provided input and impressions.

The team of UVS Executive Director, Gloria Quinn, Housing and Services Coordinator, Deb Reed, and Facilities Technician, Brice Blaisdell, along with Downstreet's Director of Real Estate Development, Nicola Anderson and Assistant, Nathan Davidson have a weekly standing meeting to ensure collaboration, communication, and momentum on these two projects.

3. Update on the progress of the housing development documentary:

Videographer, Skip Whitman, has toured Water Street with a small group of UVS clients, families, and staff; he has conducted interviews with three families with adult children seeking housing options and attended the Grand Care presentation. His work is ongoing as he gathers footage to tell this story.

4. Update on the planning workshops for parents and providers and the benefits it is providing to families to create new and innovative housing projects, and how work will include collaboration with architects Ward Joyce, and Taryn Barrett:

Ward Joyce, Taryn Barrett, Skip Whitman, Ellen Riley, Brice Blaisdell, Deb Reed are the core members of the Education and Engagement workgroup. This group meets monthly to advance this work funded by the grant.

Ward created a workplan and expanded the scope of work to meet each of the grant deliverables related to education, engagement and a how to guide for the adaptation and replication of these two models. We are working on the fulfillment of this plan. We envision a final document that can be widely shared as a resource; the video and parent/stakeholder meetings to present the video and document aka "toolkit" with people seeking to learn about housing options.

5. Update on any unknown fees and services related to the above goals:

Not currently. All fees and services were anticipated as part of this grant proposal.

6. Update on consultation with an individual with lived experience and how they have provided advice and guidance during the development of UVS projects:

UVS mobilized clients, families, and staff for Disability Awareness Day at the Statehouse with one individual giving testimony to her need for housing options and more than a dozen were shown how to request a meeting with a legislator and the importance of telling their story to bring about change by members of GMSA and the DD Council. This was an empowering experience for all who attended.

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A group of seven individuals attended Grand Care presentations and met to discuss how to pilot this technology with 3-4 individuals as part of their transition towards a future move to support growth in daily living skills and self-management. Interacting with the tools and seeing applications of smart house technology brought this concept to life for the participants who could see the values it offered.

Four individuals with lived experience toured the Water Street property with a member of the planning team and gave input and shared their impressions.

We are planning a charrette with local families, peer mentors, and a group of individuals seeking housing options to give input into the scope and content of the "Tool Kit" or guide that is being developed by the team of Ward Joyce and Taryn Barrett and members of the Education and Engagement Work Group.

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