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NHS Brooklyn rolls out new Property Management Program For Small Landlords Just-In-Time Support For Owners And Tenants Hit By COVID-19

Sun, Jan 10, 2021

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn (NHS Brooklyn), a housing nonprofit founded in 1982 to combat redlining and discriminatory practices against homeowners, will offer a new Property Management Program. The social enterprise is designed to help landlords of small buildings struggling to overcome financial setbacks due to COVID-19 and other causes, thanks to a three-year, \$375,000 award through Deutsche Bank's Working Capital initiative.

In keeping with its social justice history, NHS Brooklyn seeks to reduce racial wealth disparities by enabling more small building owners who are Black and Latinx to stabilize their finances, manage their property, and increase the value of their property.

With a focus on two- to four-unit buildings, the program will help landlords to manage their property more effectively and efficiently, while also providing relief from the economic devastation brought on by COVID-19.

Owners of small buildings will receive various forms of support, including help collecting rent from tenants overwhelmed by financial challenges due to the pandemic and analyses of how operating expenses such as property insurance, equipment, and utility bills can be reduced.

Tenants will also benefit from the program through referrals to affordable rental units in the buildings served by the property management firm and assistance submitting applications successfully for government benefits.

NHS Brooklyn's Executive Director, Tonya Ores, says, "The NHS Brooklyn Property Management Program will bring professional and technical assistance to keep small property owners from becoming distressed homeowners, especially during this pandemic."

Lisa Talma, Vice President of Philanthropic Initiatives for <u>Deutsche Bank's</u> Community Development Finance Group, explains that "In an environment where there is still a significant racial wealth gap, <u>Deutsche Bank</u> is proud to support NHS Brooklyn's social enterprise venture to help owners of small properties maintain and retain their homes, and build their family assets." **New York State Senator Kevin Parker** points out that "Owners of small buildings are vital to the City in providing life necessities like housing, yet they are undercapitalized. Many of them in normal times lacked the expertise and resources to upgrade and manage their properties effectively, much less during a pandemic. The Property Management Program, administered by NHS Brooklyn with lead funding from Deutsche Bank, fills that acute need."

Assembly Member, State Committee Leader, and Chair of the Kings County Democratic Committee, Rodneyse Bichotte says that "NHS Brooklyn's initiative to help small property owners access quality property management services will help homeowners who are increasingly unable to pay their mortgage and operating expenses to stay afloat, while also helping tenants to access government resources and stay in their homes."

New York City Councilmember Farah N. Louis emphasizes that, "Landlords of small buildings unable to collect rent are struggling to make ends meet and need our support. Through Deutsche Bank's Working Capital program, NHS Brooklyn will help local participants strengthen the building blocks of homeownership by increasing access to government resources, minimizing operational costs, and improving property management skills via education."

Lending vast expertise to the program's launch will be **Tywan Anthony**, an experienced property manager who has managed affordable housing units throughout Brooklyn and who has successfully overseen more than six million square feet of retail, residential, office, and shopping center assets.

Small building owners who are interested in receiving property management services from NHS Brooklyn should contact Byron Todman at (718) 469-4679 or btodman@nhsbrooklyn.org.

NHS Brooklyn, a 501©3 nonprofit organization established in 1982, is a housing counseling agency certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), With offices in East Flatbush and Canarsie and a strong presence in East New York and Coney Island, NHS Brooklyn offers first-time home buyer education, foreclosure intervention, landlord training, home repair financing, property insurance counseling, tenant support services, financial coaching, and emergency and disaster preparedness.