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**Cambridge Housing Authority Work Force Youth Program awarded \$100,000
from Cummings Foundation**

Cambridge, June 10, 2019 – Cambridge Housing Authority Work Force Youth Program is one of 100 regional nonprofits to receive grants for \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “\$100K for 100” program. Work Force was chosen from a total of 574 applicants during a competitive review process.

The Cambridge Housing Authority Work Force Youth Program is a comprehensive after-school educational enrichment, college prep, and work-readiness program for low-income teens living in Cambridge public housing. Holistic in design, the program provides participants with sustained networks of learning and support over a critical seven-year span: from the eighth grade through the first two years of post-secondary education. Our goal is to help our participants to acquire the wide range of skills necessary for economic mobility and long-term success.

The Work Force is a program of the Resident Services Department. “The grant from Cummings Foundation will provide considerable support to the Work Force Youth Program,” said John Lindamood, Director of Resident Services Department for CHA. “With increasingly less money available from the Federal government for housing authorities, we need to rely more heavily on support from foundations and individual donors. This grant allows us to leverage other dollars and become less dependent on the CHA for funds.”

With this award, CHA Work Force program intends to continue strengthening its post-secondary supports for youth living in public housing. One of the most impressive outcomes for The Work Force is that nearly two-thirds of Work Force alumni no longer live in public housing six years after graduating from the program (Based on 2008 and 2014 alumni surveys conducted by Edgmere Consulting Company).

Nearly 90% of Work Force youth matriculate into a two or four-year Colleges, yet only 36% attain a degree within 6-years. With the advent of the Post-Secondary Success Initiative and the addition of a comprehensive College Matched Savings program, our persistence goal for the class of 2016 is to have 60% on track to gain a degree within six-years and 70% for the class of 2017. Eventually, our aim is to achieve a 75% degree attainment within six-years for all Work Force graduating classes.

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. “By having such a local focus, we aim to make a meaningful positive difference in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are most grateful for the nonprofit organizations that assist and empower our neighbors, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at www.cummingsfoundation.org

About CHA Work Force Program:

Unusual for its depth of engagement, TWF serves over 270 youth annually, operating from facilities located in the city's three largest family housing developments, as well as in the city's only public high school, promoting strong connections between students, their families, and the schools. By design, the program serves youth with a wide range of interests and abilities -- participation requires only that students live in public housing and be enrolled in school. While some TWF participants are excellent students, many are marginalized and lack the proper sustained support to thrive academically. Studies have shown that low-income, minority youth, are perennially on the losing side of the academic achievement gap, a deficit which greatly diminishes their ability to break the bonds of poverty and join the economic mainstream.

The primary goal of TWF is to provide youth with the tools they need so they can take advantage of opportunities to reach their personal, educational, and economic potential. Central to this effort is insuring that our youth are academically, financially, and emotionally, prepared for college, and/or a career. Since 1984, TWF has all but eliminated the high school dropout rate amongst its participants and now sends nearly 90% of its graduates to college annually. Over the past 5-years TWF has implemented a College Matched Savings program, and created Alumni Coach and Career Development Specialist positions to help youth persist and plan career options as they progress through their post-secondary years.

About Cummings Foundation:

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn. Its largest single commitment to date has been to the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Additional information is available at www.cummingsfoundation.org.



Work Force staff celebrating the Cummings Foundation Award