



Project Snapshot

Hearth at Olmstead Green is a 59-unit supportive housing and assisted living development targeting formerly homeless elders age 50 and older.

Hearth at Olmstead Green features extensive common areas including lounges, a library, a "Brain Gym," a wellness center, and a common dining room, all designed to encourage community. The site is in close proximity to shopping, dining, medical facilities and transportation.

Owner, Developer, Property Manager and Service Provider:

- **Developer:** The Fallon Company
- **Owner and Manager:** Hearth, Inc.
- **Service Providers:** Hearth, Department of Mental Health

Tenant Profile:

Formerly homeless elders age 50 and older

Service Approach:

Hearth's model integrates housing, mental health, medical and social services supports in a manner that permits even very frail elders to live with considerable independence in their own apartments. The cost of Hearth housing is at most one-half the cost of institutional alternatives such as long term care or shelter beds. Hearth's team is comprised of nurses, Resident Assistants, Personal Care Homemakers and activity staff. Services include:

- É Behavioral health management
- É Medical management including physician collaboration, medication assistance, health education and health screening
- É Crisis intervention
- É On-site meals provided 5 days per week

Hearth at Olmstead Green is situated in the larger Olmstead Green community in Boston and was designed to meet the unique needs of vulnerable elders. Units have design features such as emergency pull cords, grab bars and full size refrigerators, that benefit older adults and those who are aging in place.

Project Design Tips

Hearth has shared lessons learned on housing project design for vulnerable elders. Tips for project design and modifications include:

- Install windows that extend out of the building to allow for more light and make the unit seem larger
- The "sweet spot" for cost effectiveness is between 40 and 60 units.
- Build all units to be fully ADA compliant from the beginning will save money on future modifications
- Add fully accessible kitchens to the design, with full-size refrigerators
- Build walk-in showers with edges no more than four inches
- Proximity to transportation and grocery stores is critical
- Create an inviting designated outdoor area for smoking
- Consider outlets in common areas for charging devices, phones and tablets

