



BRIGHTON ALLSTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
404 WASHINGTON STREET
BRIGHTON, MA 02135
Tel. (617) 254-4046 Email: bacoffice@brightonucc.org

July 17, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Brighton Allston Congregational Church (BACC) descends from a fusion of separatist and dissenting Pilgrims, Puritan reformers, and Bay Colony merchant adventurers who left England in the late Seventeenth Century, some to escape persecution, and others to forge a more prosperous life in the New World. These immigrants settled in Brighton in 1647. The BACC as we know it today was formally established in 1827.

In the late 1970s, the BACC opened a thrift shop and food pantry and established a free weekly supper because of the congregation's desire to address growing economic need in the community. Our primary constituency has been homeless people, families living in subsidized housing, senior citizens who are food insecure, first generation immigrants, and people who have formerly been incarcerated. We feed as many as 120 people per week at our community supper, and we distribute more than 9,500 pounds of food each month through our food pantry. Further, during the winter, on days and nights when it snows or the temperatures fall below 15 degrees, 10 to 12 people eat, sleep, bathe, and relax in the church.

At the initiative of our congregation, the BACC now wishes to hire a social worker to provide more individualized services to members of our community. We foresee this professional's role as helping community members with such issues as finding housing, obtaining benefits, ensuring access to healthcare, and accessing employment and educational opportunities. The social worker would maintain regular hours on our premises and would operate under an open-door policy of serving anyone in need who comes in from the street. Besides serving former inmates, we would also be serving many people who have been convicted of lesser crimes but are nevertheless on the margins of society because of their criminal record. Many of our regular guests frequent shelters such as The Salvation Army in Cambridge, Rosie's Place (for women), and the Pine Street Inn – each of which serves former inmates and provides us with a high number of word of mouth referrals. We further foresee that we will work with the Suffolk County Department of Corrections as well as the District 14 (Brighton) Police Department to make sure we are complementing their good work.

The total project costs to make this social worker available to our community would be approximately \$30,000 per year to include salary and overhead. Of this amount, we respectfully request up to \$25,000 from the John H. and H. Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this initial concept to you, and we hope for an invitation to provide you with a complete proposal.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Mark Seifried,
Interim Senior Minister