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COVID-19 Impact Update

In accordance with public health guidance, STRIVE is joining nationwide efforts to contain the spread of COVID 19. As a result our site is no longer providing direct services to individuals or groups on face to face basis. However we are delivering services virtually to support our community. As unemployment rates climb, the need for STRIVE is stronger than ever.

The STRIVE Boston team is doing or has done the following:

The STRIVE team assessed the current technology needs of our clients by using a structured survey which was completed on-line or over the phone. The assessment determined what devices people currently have access to and what their capabilities are for connecting to the internet for online learning. We have distributed Chromebooks to the clients who didn't have access to technology.

We are also doing daily check ins with clients to make sure that they are connected to the appropriate resources. We have provided gift cards for food and other necessities.

We have completed on Adult Virtual Job readiness Workshop (age 25 plus) and are about to finish our second cycle shortly. The workshop is a 5week nationally recognized curriculum and is followed by a virtual employers week. We've recently entered into a partnership with second hand cars where we will be able to provide refurbished cars to clients so that they can increase their employment accessibility.

Our youth program is enrolling youth (ages 18-25) in our virtual life skills workshop on a rolling basis. We have an on-line platform that is administered by Penn Foster where young people can earn on-line industry recognized certifications. Case managers are engaged in other follow up support for clients who have completed the workshop and earning incentives as they reach certain benchmarks. By demand, we've implemented a weekly virtual young men's drop in group which provides a safe space for young men to discuss their anxieties during these trying times. We are providing virtual programming to youth, who are under state supervision, who will be aging out of transitional housing which has actually allowed us expand our programming.

We have increased our online recruiting presence and simplified our enrollment process.

Job Placement is still happening for our clients who have lost jobs and have to work. We hold a weekly virtual jobs club where we advise clients of job opportunities.

We are also providing assistance with helping clients understand and take part in the unemployment claims process as well as helping them navigate community resources.

We are also partnering with Excel Academy to provide virtual GED classes to STRIVE clients.

The STRIVE Boston team is meeting once a week formally using Microsoft Teams to check in with each other to strategize as to how we can best serve our clients..

We are doing weekly check ins with the STRIVE National team to share strategies from across the country as well as to take part in relevant training that can help us through this difficult time.

Our clients are some of the most vulnerable in the Commonwealth and we continue to be very grateful for the passion and generosity our supporters demonstrate to see them through this incredibly difficult time.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Powell, MPA

Vice President for Community Engagement, JRI/Executive Director, STRIVE Boston