

[www.nashuatelegraph.com](http://www.nashuatelegraph.com)

To print this article if a print dialogue does not open automatically, open the File menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

## Harbor Homes programs earn White House honor

By *PATRICK MEIGHAN* Staff Writer

NASHUA – Three Harbor Homes officials were flown to the White House last week, when the agency was honored for three of its programs funded through federal stimulus dollars.

The trip came on the anniversary of President Barack Obama signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. About 100 representatives of businesses and nonprofit agencies heard speeches from Obama and Vice President Joe Biden to mark the occasion.

“It was just an amazing experience,” said Cynthia Andreola, community relations manager for Harbor Homes.

She made the whirlwind trip with Peter Kelleher, the agency’s president and chief executive officer, and Scott Slattery, its neighborhood stabilization manager.

Harbor Homes Inc., headquartered at 45 High St., works with homeless individuals and families. Agency programs help clients face problems often related to homelessness, such as mental illness and substance abuse. Three programs were honored.

One, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, provides rental subsidies for up to seven years to individuals with mental illness and received \$553,652. Among the population the program targets are people dismissed from the state hospital and people who are homeless or are at risk of being homeless. The money so far has helped fund housing for 10 people, Andreola said.

The second program honored was the Harbor Care Clinic, created to provide a comprehensive and coordinated health care program targeted to homeless adults and adolescents living in Greater Nashua. Funded through \$1.3 million of mostly stimulus money, the clinic began providing primary health care and case management services in June.

Individuals seeking care at the clinic are 70 percent male and live at less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Nearly a third are in their 40s.

A full-time case manager, full-time program manager, part-time medical director, three part-time registered nurses, two part-time medical providers and a full-time medical assistant were hired, or are in the process of being hired, through the grant. The third program is the neighborhood stabilization program, managed by Slattery and funded with \$2.1 million of stimulus money.

Through the program, Harbor Homes will buy, rehabilitate and resell abandoned or foreclosed properties in the distressed Tree Streets and French Hill neighborhoods. Besides creating housing, the program has the added benefit of providing work for Realtors,

inspectors, lawyers, appraisers, contractors, electricians, carpenters, plumbers and other craftsmen.

Andreola noted that when President Obama visited Nashua as a candidate, he toured Buckingham Place, a Harbor Homes program that provides temporary housing for homeless U. S. veterans.

During his presidency, Obama has made helping veterans a priority, Andreola said. "I'd like to think we played some small part in acclimating him to what the veterans' needs were," she said.

Patrick Meighan can be reached at 594-6518 or pmeighan@nashuatelegraph.com.

---

© 2009, Telegraph Publishing Company, Nashua, New Hampshire