

Breaking News

FQHC Look-Alike Status: It's Kind of a Big Deal

Bread for the City has just received some wonderful news! Our medical clinic has been approved as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike—a “stamp of approval” that says we adhere to federal health center guidelines. It's kind of a big deal!

Why now? Bread for the City previously did not have the capacity to meet all the guidelines necessary to qualify for FQHC. However, with your support we were able to expand our medical clinic in 2011—doubling its size and allowing us to hire new staff, such as Dr. Paulette and Dr. Smyles.

What does this mean for Bread?

For starters, we'll be able to see more patients! One of the chief benefits of becoming a FQHC is that we now qualify for 100% reimbursement for all Medicaid and Medicare patient visits—which make up well over half of our total visits per year. So instead of getting only \$57 in Medicaid or Medicare reimbursement when our average visit cost is \$158, we'll be getting reimbursed for the full cost of care. Not only will this shore up our clinic's financial stability for years to come, but it will also free up more of our donor dollars for other needed areas: our expanding food program, our popular housing assistance programs, our job readiness training program, and more.

So how many more patients will we be able to see? With FQHC Look-Alike status now in place, we project that in two years we'll be able to treat

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Adelaide finds a new home!

When Adelaide Gomes learned that her landlord was selling her apartment, she was devastated. As a retired cashier living on a fixed income, she knew it would be hard to find another apartment that rented for nearly \$600 a month in her neighborhood. After all, Adelaide had lived in that very same studio on 17th Street, NW since 1969—43 years.

An affordable apartment: that was the problem. She realized early on that finding an apartment she could rent on a fixed income would require some work.

Adelaide was no stranger to hard work. She came to the U.S. from Portugal in 1958 for a better life for herself and her sister. She quickly picked up several trades, from shoe cobbling to light bulb assembly.

“I always had multiple jobs, but I guess you could say that my real career began and ended at Sholl's Cafeteria on K Street in DC. I was a cashier there for 36 years and at 71 years old, I was ready to retire.”

Adelaide spent months looking for housing in DC, but on her fixed income budget, it seemed impossible. The apartments that she could afford either had no occupancy or had waiting lists in the hundreds. She was also having problems navigating the application process and the fine print. A residential manager at one apartment complex recommended that she come to Bread for the City for help.

How we were able to serve Adelaide:

Through our Housing Access Program, Adelaide was able to find subsidized apartment buildings that were accepting applications. With our help, she was able to get on the waitlists she qualified for and ultimately secure affordable housing. In addition:

- We were able to offer her care in both our medical and dental clinics.
- We helped her obtain Medicaid.
- She was able to take advantage of our food program, where a 3-day supply of healthy groceries was available to her every month.

The results:

Adelaide moved into her new comfortable, safe, and secure apartment in February of this year: a community that offers affordable housing to



Adelaide is one of the lucky ones. Between 2000 and 2010, affordable housing in DC shrunk by more than half.

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4,700 patients annually—nearly double the number we treated last year. Wow!

Does this change Bread at all? Bread will still retain its “medical home” ethos—where we give each patient the time and attention that they deserve so that we may treat the root of their health concerns rather than just the symptom. Even though we will see more patients, we will decidedly not transition into the assembly line care model that rushes patients through.

To help us maintain top quality care, our Board of Directors is now led by a patient majority—ensuring that organizational decisions are made with patient input and with our patients’ best interests in mind.

As per FQHC standards, we have also implemented a sliding fee scale along with the safeguards necessary to ensure that this scale does not serve as a barrier to care. That last part is very important!

The future? It feels good to join the ranks of FQHC providers with this Look-Alike designation, allowing us to serve more patients and help better meet the District’s need for medical care. We will also set our sights on becoming a full status FQHC provider. Whereas Look-



FQHC Look-Alike status means that BFC will be able to treat even more patients in need of care!

Alike status means we meet federal health clinic standards and can receive complete reimbursements, full FQHC status will give us access to federal grants that would help us further enhance our clinic offerings to the District’s residents living with low incomes.

This is a time to celebrate! A lot of hard work went into meeting the qualifications for FQHC Look-Alike status. We are delighted to receive federal recognition for the top-notch care that Bread for the City’s Medical Clinic has been delivering for years. 🎉

Learn more about the healthcare gap in DC by visiting breadforthecity.org/healthcare.

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low-income seniors or disabled persons at approximately 49% less than the average fair market rent in the Washington local area.

“You know, I have never ever lived in a one bedroom apartment, always studios. This was such a blessing to me. Bread for the City encouraged me with every visit, every phone call. Ms. Ashley, Mrs. Stacey, Ms. Jackie—they helped me in such a wonderful way. I have a big beautiful icebox, a big stove, a window above my sink, and everything is big and new. It’s wonderful.”

Adelaide’s monthly social security payments were increased by \$100. Because she was able to qualify for Medicaid, she no longer had to pay the \$100 premium per month for Medicare. Healthcare is now available to her at no cost. Now, her only medical expense is a small co-pay for her prescriptions—reduced to around \$2.50 apiece from \$20.

She was also able to get a refund for some medical bills that she had already paid. Because Medicaid is retroactive by 3 months, several of Adelaide’s payments for a past surgery were refunded and the remaining balance was now covered!

Adelaide says that Bread’s comprehensive services have impacted her life in a

big way. “Being able to play bingo with new friends in my beautiful apartment, seeing Dr. Myles’s loving face at my dental appointments at Bread for the City, and going to bed without stressing over my medical bills—those are all priceless things. I thank God for Bread for the City.” 🙏

– Jenn Stowe

Stay Connected to Bread for the City!



We live tweet all of our major events, and we love tweeting with our supporters!

@BreadfortheCity

We’re always sharing photos and stories from the front lines on our Facebook page!

[Facebook.com/BreadfortheCity](https://www.facebook.com/BreadfortheCity)

We’re also blogging every week about issues affecting our community.

Subscribe to our blog on our website at www.BreadfortheCity.org

or by emailing communications@breadforthecity.org

Make an in-kind gift by donating food, clothing, or an item from our Amazon Wish List

See our Wish List at [Amzn.to/BFCWish](https://www.amazon.com/BFCWish)

Here are some of our most-needed items:

- ✓ Diapers
- ✓ Children's books, especially in Spanish
- ✓ Cleaning supplies/laundry detergent
- ✓ Gift cards for grocery stores and pharmacies
- ✓ Plus-sized clothing for men and women
- ✓ SmarTrip cards
- ✓ Toilet paper and other household items
- ✓ Thumb drives

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Meet the people we're helping at Bread for the City. Visit [BreadfortheCity.org/OurClients](https://www.breadforthe-city.org/OurClients) to see how we're changing lives.

Donor Spotlight



“For us to be successful, we need our community to be successful as well.”

– Martin Pollack, Two Men and a Truck CEO

Company with a Cause: Two Men, One Truck, and A Whole Lot of Giving

“TWO MEN AND A TRUCK showed a commitment to Bread for the City right from the start,” says Bread for the City’s Emily Schneider, “We asked for monetary support and got it—AND some dedicated volunteers willing to pitch in.”

Every time we asked for help, the guys from Two Men and a Truck were there! And their commitment to this community is built right into their mission. According to CEO Martin Pollack, “One of our core values as a company is social responsibility.” Then, Pollack, Franchise President Zach Kildall, and Operations Director Daniel Conlin took doing good to another level by establishing their own Do Good program.

Through the program, Pollack says, “We could donate a percentage of our revenue to support the community that supports us.”

And they’ve found that the program even makes good business sense! “As business owners, we realize that we can’t be successful without the support of our community,” says Pollack. “This is true not only because they are our customers, but also because

they are our employees and advocates.”

This spring, these do-gooders put their money where their mouth is... and then some!

The team came in to plant and weed in our rooftop garden, sort clothing donations for Bread’s Boutique, and pack bags of healthy groceries in our food pantry. Amazing!

“What we love about volunteering at and supporting Bread for the City is the way they support the community in such a comprehensive way,” says Pollack. “When we work with Bread for the City, we know that we are helping the community with nutrition, healthcare, counseling, clothing, and more.”

He notes that, just like Two Men and a Truck, Bread for the City supports people in our community through major transitions.

We’re so grateful for the incredible support we’ve received from this awesome company with a cause. Thanks so much, Martin, Zach, Daniel and your incredible team of movers and drivers at Two Men and a Truck! We heart you bunches! 🍷

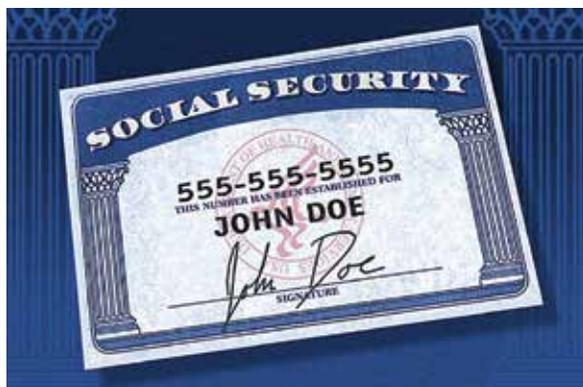
Interested in volunteering?
Sign up by emailing volunteer@breadforthe-city.org

New barriers for obtaining identification in the District

Have you ever reached for your wallet and realized it is missing? Frantically gone through every bag in your house and tried to remember the last place you used an ID, credit card or employee badge? Your heart races and panic sets in. On top of the panic, there is also an ever-growing list of places to call or visit if it is not found—the credit card company to report your missing cards, your employer to cancel Metro benefits, and a long wait at the DMV for your license. It's stressful, expensive, and time-consuming to replace identifying documents.

As of May 1st, DC's REAL ID law requires that you present proof of your identity (name and date of birth), proof of your social security number (SSN), and now two proofs of DC residency in order to get a non-driver's ID or license. This can go from complicated and annoying to nearly impossible if you don't have a few important documents. Many of us take for granted how easy it is to prove our identity: driver's license, passport, utility bills, lease/mortgage, pay stubs, social security card, tax documents, voter's registration card, educational and medical records. If I had to suddenly prove who I am, it would be complicated – but not impossible. Where would you start if you had none of these?

Up until recently, if you were receiving public benefits in the district—like food stamps or Medicaid—you could get a low-barrier state issued ID from the Department of Human Services. DC has stopped issuing these cards and there is no similar program to replace it. Now, the new “Real ID” requirements have been implemented in DMV offices



across the city, and folks are being asked to bring their primary documents back to the DMV over the next two years to recertify for their identification cards and licenses.

Two of the most common proofs of identity are birth certificate and Social Security card. Many of us have these kinds of papers stored in safe locations. For example, both of my originals are in a safe deposit box. I wonder what I would do with these really important papers if I didn't have safe storage. Would I carry them on my person? Leave them with a trusted family member or friend? What if my purse gets stolen or that family member moves far away? Many of our clients have found themselves in these exact situations—the birth certificate went missing after another move, the wallet with their social security card was stolen on a bus. This is often when someone comes into our Social Services program looking for some direction on where to start.

We keep an updated how-to guide for obtaining the most common documents individuals need. It often turns into a

practice in creative thinking—is there anyone who might have your baptismal record? Is there a doctor with medical records? We also write a lot of referrals to groups that will help to pay for birth certificates (\$23 in DC) and a DC non-driver's ID (\$20). This might not seem like a lot of money, but for someone living in poverty, there isn't money to spare.

Many of our clients have expressed frustration at a system that is setting them up to fail.

We need identification to move forward in almost all parts of our lives—with housing and job applications, to enroll ourselves or our children in educational programs, to access medical care or cash a check. The “Real ID” policies aren't that different than before, but they continue a trend of raising barriers for people with less access—and perpetuating the conditions of poverty that our clients face every day.

“The ‘Real ID’ requirements aren't that different than before, but they continue a trend of raising barriers for people with less access.”

It's important to remember that, for a lot of us, the ability to navigate systems comes from our privilege, and for some folks, getting a basic identifying document is a huge barrier. We are working together with other anti-poverty agencies to identify and brainstorm how clients are affected by these policies and how we can best navigate the system to assist individuals in obtaining these important identity documents. 🙏

– Kathleen Stephan



Looking for other ways to get involved? Volunteer with us by contacting volunteer@breadforthecity.org

The best way to support our work is through a monetary contribution to Bread for the City.

Join our Bread & Butter Club with a monthly gift to help us sustain our programs year-round at [Donate.BreadfortheCity.org/GiveMonthly](https://www.breadforthecity.org/givemonthly)

Just want to make a one-time gift? Give today at [Donate.BreadfortheCity.org](https://www.breadforthecity.org/donate)