Several members currently attending the program do not attend on all of the days that they are approved to do so by the State of Illinois (by whom the MBIC is contracted for service) because of limitations in payment. With greater cash flow, MBIC will be better able to maximize the days that current members attend the program. Also, as some members become more independent, staff can focus on new members. Thus, the Clubhouse Model creates a naturally self-perpetuating cycle that allows us to increasingly sustain ourselves and expand our programs.

In the last year, the MBIC has been approved to be an Adult Daycare provider, and thus, as this aspect of the Clubhouse is developed, it is imperative that we develop additional services targeting support for aging members with varying levels of cognitive impairment. For example, we already help some members secure medication, buy them walkers and schedule their OT, PT and other therapies onsite. There will most likely be more Health & Wellness program offerings as part of these additions.

We also aim to further develop services to assist with food or housing insecurity that members experience as well as provide psychological support for members and their caregivers. This is relevant to the Health & Wellness Unit because these social determinants of health are shown to have a direct impact on an individual’s health.

SAMPLE 2

The East African community that we serve is very family oriented. Their strengths include parents’ strong concern for their children’s education as well as their own, social and employment success and civic engagement. The deep family bonds

create a strong oral tradition of positive peer pressure and passing along information within the community, but this also creates some challenges with misinformation about the new culture and the ability to trust outside of the community.

Their priorities are education for their children and education for themselves. They all want to overcome the tremendous hardships of their past and regain control of their lives. They know that education is the most direct route toward that goal.

Most of our community are disadvantaged by limited English proficiency and the result is most of them have unique health and cultural needs due to isolation, reduced access to information about daily American life and a lack of basic understanding

of healthy life choices for them and their children. Because of this lack of access to information, the East Africans in Seattle have only a very limited understanding of the role and impact of their environment and presence of harmful elements like lead

in the water, the importance of immunizations and the importance of reaching childhood milestones for physical, mental and behavioral health.

The community we serve has many obstacles to overcome which include having passed through very traumatic experiences of isolation, destitution, fleeing from political oppression, and threat to life from their home countries and severe intolerance in

their new one. In this atmosphere they must learn a new language, new culture, find jobs, and preserve their own morals and customs. In addition, the poverty rate in this population is nearly five times higher than the rest of Metro Seattle, the vast

majority living at about one third of the city’s median income.

Because of their life experiences, they are very closed off and inhibited toward modern medical discoveries and interventions. Our programs help them assimilate their conflicting views into new attitudes that don't question society and social programs

with automatic distrust. One example of why extra effort is needed is that we have referred two families for early intervention

services where the families ended up on a long waiting list since they couldn’t afford to pay for the services at the time. If they had gone before the child was 3 years old, the services would be free, but they lacked information about this. Afterward, it created even more rumors and distrust in the system. This told us that we needed to reach more families earlier and that we needed powerful allies in overcoming the distrust of the systems in order to accomplish that.

We have seen excellent progress in our After-School program, but it then highlighted the gap from preschool to that age, so we knew we must put more resources toward promoting programs for the younger ages to prevent those gaps and also that

we needed to reach a larger percentage of the population to truly foster equity and empowerment, giving our clients a voice in their futures.

SAMPLE 3

The Town of Manchester Conservation Commission is requesting support from the Davis Conservation Foundation to increase the pace and scope of farmland protection in the Manchester, Readfield, and Winthrop region. The Manchester Conservation Commission has initiated the Regional Farmland Protection and Access Project (the Project) to ensure the future of farming in our communities.

Manchester wants to be known as a farm-friendly municipality. The farms and agricultural organizations that remain in town are an important part of our community identity. The town’s agricultural community includes vegetable and cattle farms, orchards, stables, greenhouses, and acres of pasture, mowed field, hayfield, and diversified farmland. Maine has the second oldest landowner population in the country, and over the next 5-10 years those owners will be getting off the family farm. How we can help get more farmers on the land and keep more land in farming?

Manchester’s 2011 Comprehensive Plan Update sets goals and provides implementation strategies for supporting existing farms and encouraging new farms and there is more work to do. For farms to flourish, we need an informed and dedicated community of people who are passionate about Maine farms, speaking up, and contributing to farming’s future.

The Project enables us to get to know and engage our farmers in the Manchester, Winthrop, and Readfield region. Funds from the Davis Conservation Foundation will enable us to support a Regional Farmland Work Group; conduct municipal farmland inventories that capture town and farm characteristics, risks and opportunities, municipal policies and ordinances; collect information and stories through informal interviews between local officials and farmers at their farms to find out how they are doing and hear first-hand how they feel the community helps or hinders their ability to farm successfully; and host a regional public forum and harvest dinner that celebrates our farmers and local food.

This Project has a lot of enthusiasm and energy. In March, Manchester Conservation Commission members visited the Readfield and Winthrop Conservation Commission meetings and both eagerly committed members to the Project. Initial outreach to Maine Farmland Trust and the Community Center for GIS has secured support and commitment for the Project. In early May, a Maine Farmland Trust staff is giving a presentation to a joint meeting of the Manchester, Readfield, and Winthrop Conservation Commissions.

The Project will yield the following results:

* A strong, Regional (Manchester, Winthrop, Readfield) Farmland Work Group that is connected to our communities’ farmers and well-known by state and local farm advocacy groups and programs.
* A community recognition of what we can do to support the future of farming in our region through the sharing of stats and stories of farmers’ needs and challenges at the harvest dinner and forum.
* Prioritized recommendations for further action in each town and as a region based on the findings from the informal farmer interviews and the municipal farmland inventories. This includes a summary report, hard copy maps and interactive online maps by town and region.
* Increased public awareness among residents about the important role farms play in our communities.

The Regional Farmland Work Group will measure the Project’s success by tracking the number of farm visits and farmland inventories completed; setting and meeting goals for participation in the harvest dinner and public forum; and a qualitative assessment of each town’s engagement with the community’s farmers in the summary report.

The Manchester Conservation Commission is a strong and successful group that works to promote and protect the natural resources of the municipality. Past experience includes the successful administration of two Recreational Trails Program grants, writing/implementing a Dark Skies Ordinance, and hosting an annual Community roadside cleanup day. Its membership is made up of active professionals in our state legislature, state government, nonprofits, and farming.