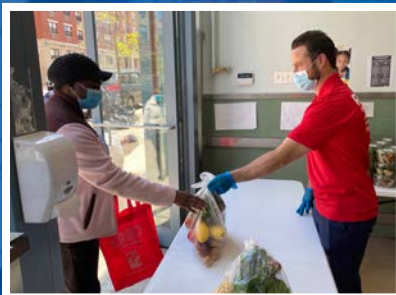






# RISEBORO RESPONDS



Although the COVID-19 pandemic did not happen during the timeframe of this report, I would be remiss to not mention the profound impact it has had on RiseBoro and the communities we serve. It has been heartbreaking to see the burden of the crisis fall disproportionately on those who are least able to bear it. It has been maddening to watch structural racism and historical inequity determine the winners and losers of this real-time life and death battle. RiseBoro has adapted to meet the emerging need in many ways, and you can learn more about our response [here](#). Now more than ever, we are grateful for and dependent on the support of all our friends and stakeholders.

*Scott Short*

## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO, Scott Short



Dear Friend and Community Partner,

**RiseBoro Community Partnership** unleashes the potential of communities to thrive, no matter the odds, by offering services designed to meet the economic and social needs of people across New York City. A pioneer in community development, **RiseBoro** reaches across generations—serving over 36,000 individuals a year with innovative programs that support seniors, empower youth, and create healthy, vibrant neighborhoods with an engaged community fabric.

**RiseBoro** was founded in 1973 as a senior services organization and quickly grew to become much more. Today, we are one of New York City's premier multiservice agencies with 80+ programs across divisions of **Housing, Seniors, Empowerment, Education, and Health**. This growth continued in 2019 with significant expansions to our housing development portfolio and the rollout of innovative new initiatives designed to connect people to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

2019 saw the conclusion of the inaugural **RiseBoro** Impact Competition (RIC), through which we challenged staff to design new solutions to meet community needs. We are proud to announce our winner: Ann Donaldson of RiseBoro's senior case management team! Ann's entry, Esperanza Counseling Services, will bring in-home counseling to homebound seniors who are struggling with depression. Over the next year, **RiseBoro** will provide Ann with \$20,000 in startup funding as well as assistance from our **Community Affairs** team to design and launch this exciting new program.

This year, we would like to give special recognition to the contributions of our infrastructure staff. The hard work of our **Human Resources, Finance & Accounting, IT, Legal/Compliance/Risk Management, and Community Affairs** teams, which often happens outside the spotlight, is crucial to **RiseBoro's** continued growth and success.

On behalf of all of us at **RiseBoro**, thank you for the support you have given us over the last year. 2019 brought new challenges, opportunities, and successes, and we are excited to continue building the power of our community to effect positive change.

In partnership,

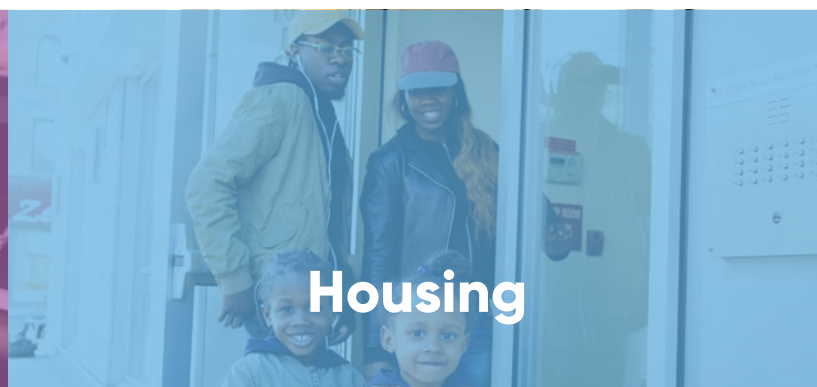
*Scott Short*

Scott Short  
Chief Executive Officer,  
**RiseBoro Community Partnership**

# The Divisions and Functional Areas of RiseBoro



**Seniors**



**Housing**



**Education**



**Health**



**Empowerment**



**Community Affairs**



**Infrastructure**



## **RB** Education

### By The Numbers



**5,783**

youth served



**2,061**

youth enrolled in  
workforce development  
programming



**94%**

of our High School  
graduates enrolled  
in college



**76%**

of adults in HSE  
classes achieved  
diplomas



**655**

adult literacy  
program attendees

**RB Education** offers youth and adults the space, skills and support, both social and emotional, they need, with programs and workshops on career development, arts, language, recreation and more.

### RB Education Division Partners with SQA Foundation to Bring Digital Literacy to RiseBoro's Adult Population



**SQA EDUCATION**

The Education Division partnered with SQA Foundation, a non-profit organization, allowing us to incorporate the innovative Tech Lab course into our adult ESOL curriculum. Tech Lab is a blended learning course, with both in-person and online components, which leverages technology and innovation to promote achievement and social transformation. The partnership project includes the teaching of computer skills and Google Tools as well as preparation for employment and professional growth.



**"My Voice Theatre has had a huge impact in my life, and is the reason why I stand strong today. As a business owner, father and a Director of Photography for the National Football League, I always let people know about My Voice Theatre, my first true family, and Francis Blacklock, my first true Parent."**

**—Eric Espino**

**Eric Espino** had a difficult life, from growing up in Bed Stuy during the drug epidemic of the late 1980's, to his adolescent years when his family was still living in public housing to dealing with the fear of dying from violence in his neighborhood. When he entered Junior High School he met a guidance counselor, Francis Blacklock, the man he says changed his life.

**Read more about Eric's Story [here](#).**

## Highlight

## **RB** Empowerment


### By The Numbers

 **101**  
jobs secured

 **150**  
individuals rehoused  
to the community

 **1,450**  
evictions prevented

 **724**  
households received  
direct financial  
assistance

 **1,828**  
households enrolled  
in SNAP

**More than a mentoring  
program, Next STEPS  
is a fixture in the  
Brownsville community**



The Next STEPS-Brownsville program provides mentorship and support to Brownsville youth through a cognitive therapy-based curriculum designed to help change negative mindsets and behavior. Over the last three years however, Next STEPS-Brownsville has become more than just a mentoring program... we are a fixture in the Brownsville community. Our staff have developed positive working relationships with law enforcement, tenant associations and families seeking services. We plan to continue the momentum of our work and engagement in this community and beyond. 27 Brownsville youth have successfully completed the program while over 50 have been served in total.

**RB Empowerment** addresses long-standing issues such as homelessness and unemployment by providing community members with resources such as workforce development and homelessness prevention programs.



**Betty and her husband were enjoying their retirement in Puerto Rico when the worst happened, Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September 2017.**

**"Nobody could prepare for that, it's impossible."**

**—Betty**

**Betty** was referred to RiseBoro's Puerto Rican Evacuee Assistance (PREA) program in the Empowerment division, where she received housing assistance. While Betty and her husband re-establish a life in New York outside of their retirement, they will now have the stability of a home in a supportive community.

"Nothing is impossible but everything takes work. Things don't just fall from the sky. If I got things for free I don't think I'll appreciate them," said Betty.



## Highlight



## Wellness Rising Program Demonstrates Results

### By The Numbers



929

homecare clients served



1,082

home health aides



65%

of health talk attendees  
said they would avoid  
hospitals as a result of  
information



Wellness Rising was a new program funded for one-year through a DSRIP grant. For this program, a team of three Community Health Workers (CHWs), a nurse and an administrator were hired. We enrolled 150 people, mainly from Woodhull Hospital, who had one or more of these chronic health problems: hypertension, diabetes, and/or obesity. Our program offered clinical interventions, (health talks, health referrals, one-on-one nurse consultations), nutritional interventions, (subsidized farm share boxes, cooking classes), and lifestyle interventions, (CHW consultations, exercise classes). And we got results.

**Outcomes:** There were a number of statistically significant findings from our program.

- 10% reduction in people who drank a sugar-sweetened beverage more than once per day
- 11% reduction in eating cooked food from a bodega more than once per week
- At study end, 19% fewer members ranked their health as fair, with 18% reporting an improved health status, (good or very good)
- At study end, 15% more members reported that they knew which foods are healthy.

**RB Health** provides homecare services and wellness programs, such as nutrition education and health screenings that are instrumental to building a thriving community.





**"I'm so grateful that we have this wonderful space to share and learn. I have learned so much and my students too. We are more conscious about what we eat and what we put back on the earth. I think the garden is a place that inspires us, the community, to be more in touch with the part we play in the ecosystem. I love our community farm!!!"**

**—Sylmarie Quinones,  
Food Justice program**

**"Yes, I have benefitted, I have diabetes, type two diabetes, and since I have changed the way that I eat, it's helped in that my A1C has gone down." —Participant, Wellness Rising program**

**"They are very attentive, very collaborative, they're always on top of us." —Participant, Wellness Rising program**

**"The garden makes me feel free and alive."  
—Isabelle Morales, 9 years old.**

## Highlight

# RB Housing

## By The Numbers



**\$3,417,293**

new and expanded  
service funding awarded



**173**

new units in construction



**5,000**

units in pre-development

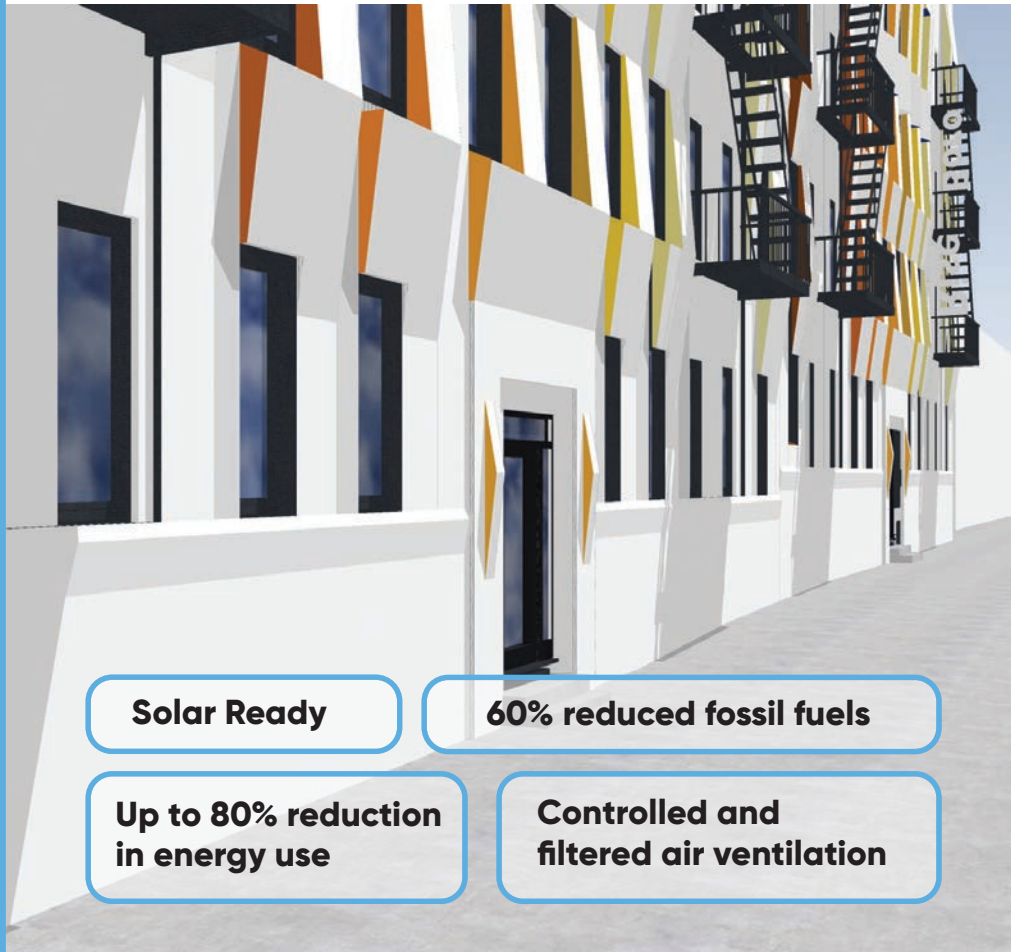


**7,384**

visits and calls with  
our senior residents

**RB Housing is a leader in affordable housing development, property management and supportive services with a focus on economic, social and environmental sustainability.**

## Casa Pasiva Retrofitting Completed



**Solar Ready**

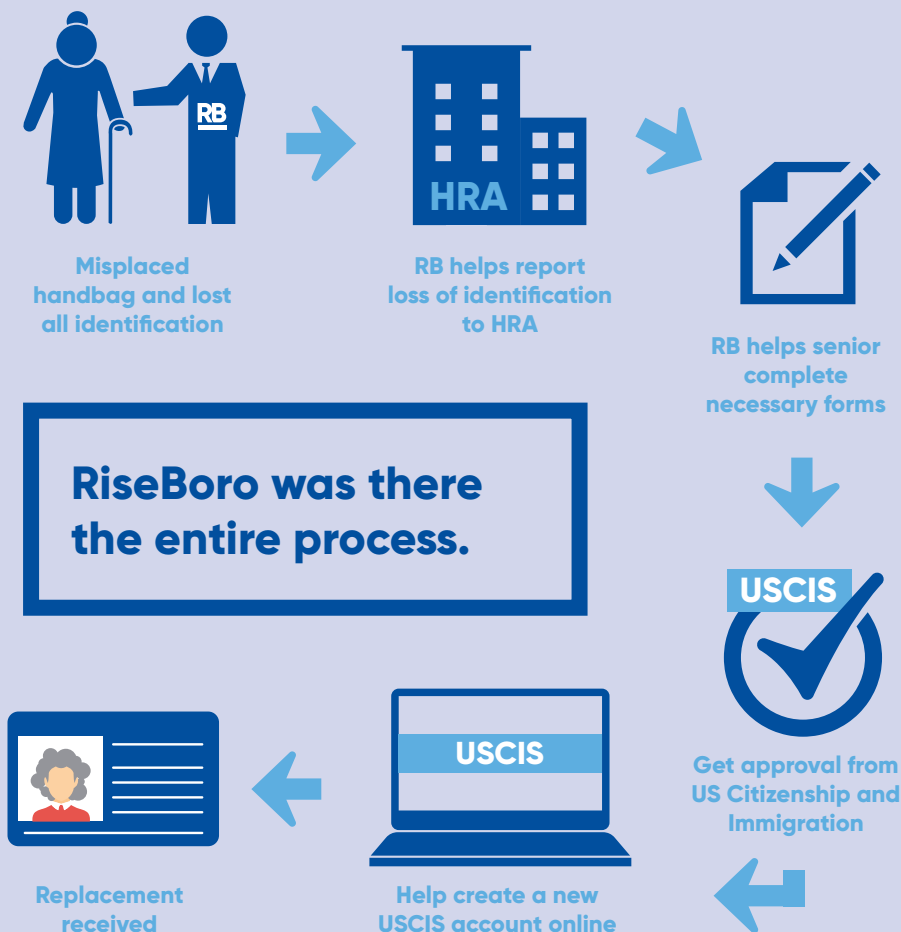
**60% reduced fossil fuels**

**Up to 80% reduction  
in energy use**

**Controlled and  
filtered air ventilation**

**Casa Pasiva** is an 8 building preservation project through which RB is retrofitting existing buildings, with tenants in place, to the Passive House Standard. It's the 1st project of its kind in NYS. In conjunction with this project, RB won over \$1MM RetroFitNY grant through NYSERDA. We are also partnering with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study Indoor Air Quality from current conditions through renovation.





The social service team worked very closely with a 78 year old tenant, who lost all of her identification when she misplaced her handbag. That identification was critical to her financial stability, but there were a lot of roadblocks in getting it replaced. RiseBoro was by her side the whole way.

Once the tenant filed a police report, she visited RiseBoro's social service office for assistance in replacing her documentation. What followed was a series of required forms, approvals and meetings that she needed assistance with. Some of the identification cards were easily replaced, such as her Medicaid and SNAP benefit ID card. Others had more requirements and steps. There were fee waivers to be filed, and follow up requests from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for additional documentation.

After many months of uncertainty and extensive advocacy by the social services team, the tenant obtained her replacement permanent resident card, allowing her to re-apply for SSI benefits, thereby increasing her income and resources. Throughout the process the tenant received advocacy, guidance, monitoring, and intensive case management to complete the process. Staff continue to work with the tenant, as with all tenants, to ensure she is successful in maintaining her ongoing financial stability.

## RB Seniors

### By The Numbers



5,919

senior center and club  
annual memberships



2,050

daily meals delivered  
through MOW



10,847

trips with transportation  
services for 135 clients



2,734

seniors participated  
in education and  
recreation classes



1,365

hours of friendly visits

### SAIL Program Excels as it Enters Third Year



SAIL, Staying Active and Independent for Life, is one of many ground breaking programs to hit senior centers. As an evidence-based program, SAIL has been researched and proven effective for many older adult settings across the country. The program combines 12 weeks of physical activity and health education. Instructors are trained to provide health tips while engaging older adults through music and lively exercise routines. The program also focuses on increasing muscle flexibility, strength, and balance. SAIL has been a great addition to the Diana Jones Innovative Senior Center and we have expanded the program to additional senior centers.

**RB Seniors** is a comprehensive program of senior services offering nutritious meals, arts, education and recreation and many opportunities for socialization.





**"Senior Citizens need lots of programs to get seniors out of the house and to get them more active. This way they live longer, they have a better life. I believe. That's my belief."**

**—Rena from the  
Diana H. Jones  
Senior Center**

**"Once I was walking with a cane**, and I came and I started, instead of going to the computer classes and the art classes I started going to the exercise classes. **And eventually I put down that cane. That cane has been hanging on the door now for over a year.** And when I don't come and take a lot of exercises I can feel more pain. So it's very beneficial. And also, you come here and you meet people from different places. You sit down and you have discussions, you listen to what life was for them, and their culture. It's a very good thing to have senior citizen centers. Cause this way you take the seniors out of their house, and they're not home sleeping and not getting a lot of exercise and not socializing. You come here, there's a lot of socializing at the centers. "

# **Infrastructure: It's What it Takes to Deliver on our Mission**

**Funding the innovation  
needed for our continued  
effort to fight poverty**





# Beyond the Program: The Entire Organization Supporting Our Mission



- **Human Resources:**  
Recruiting and retaining talent and building a positive organizational culture

- **Finance & Accounting:**  
Diligence, excellence and integrity in ensuring funds are accounted for and optimized

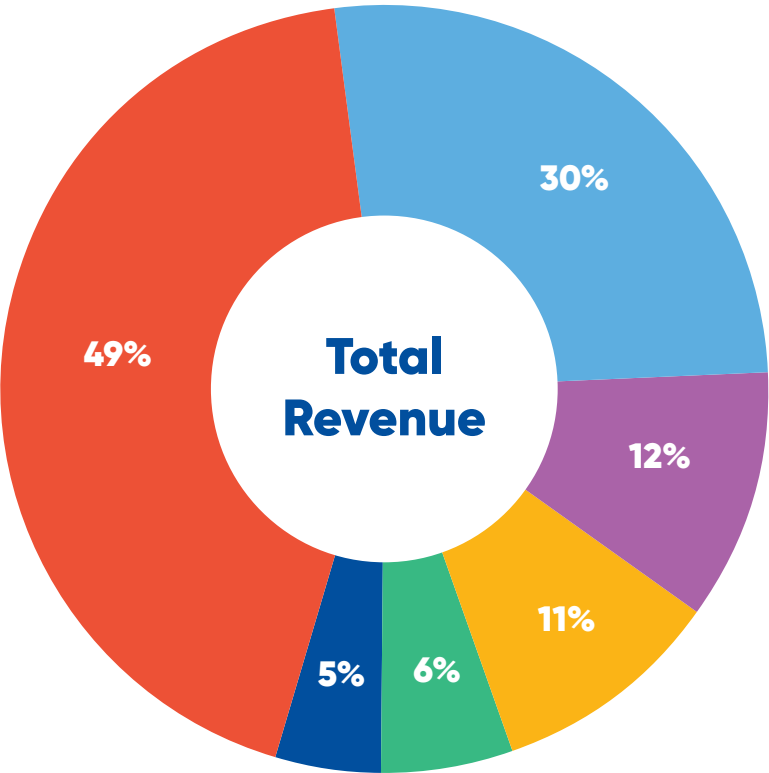
- **Information & Technology:**  
Creating and managing technology platforms that help staff to be productive and effective

- **Legal/Compliance/  
Risk Management:**  
Leading the charge to ensure all business requirements are evaluated and proactively managed

- **Community Affairs**

- **Marketing:**  
Building brand awareness through various channels
- **Community Engagement:**  
Building community partnerships to enhance engagement
- **Development:**  
Fundraising to support the mission
- **Strategic Initiatives:**  
Incubating and developing the next mission-driving programs

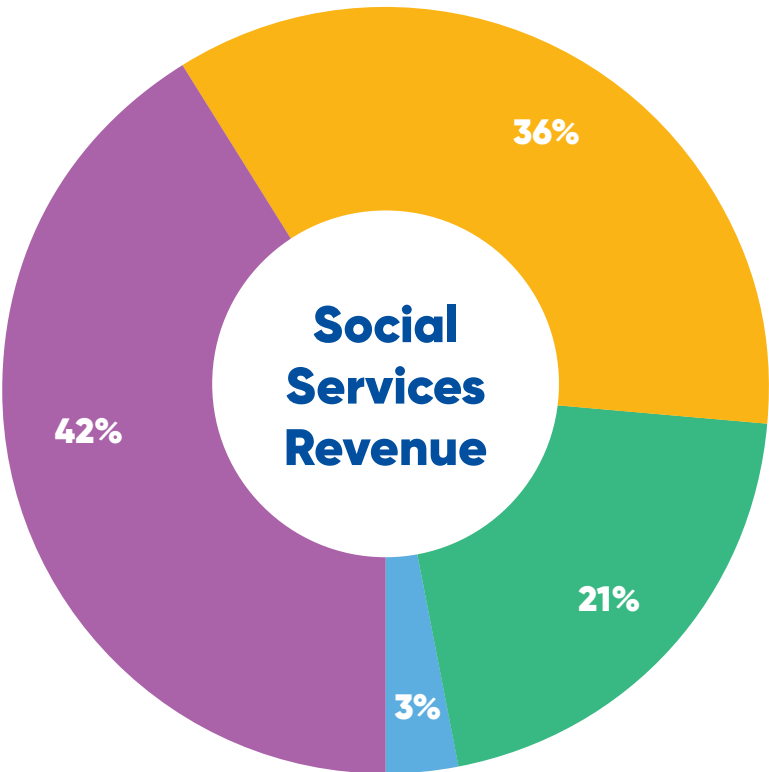
# RB FINANCIALS



## RiseBoro Total Revenue

Total \$103,889,239

Health	49%
Housing	30%
Seniors	12%
Empowerment	11%
Education	6%
Admin	5%

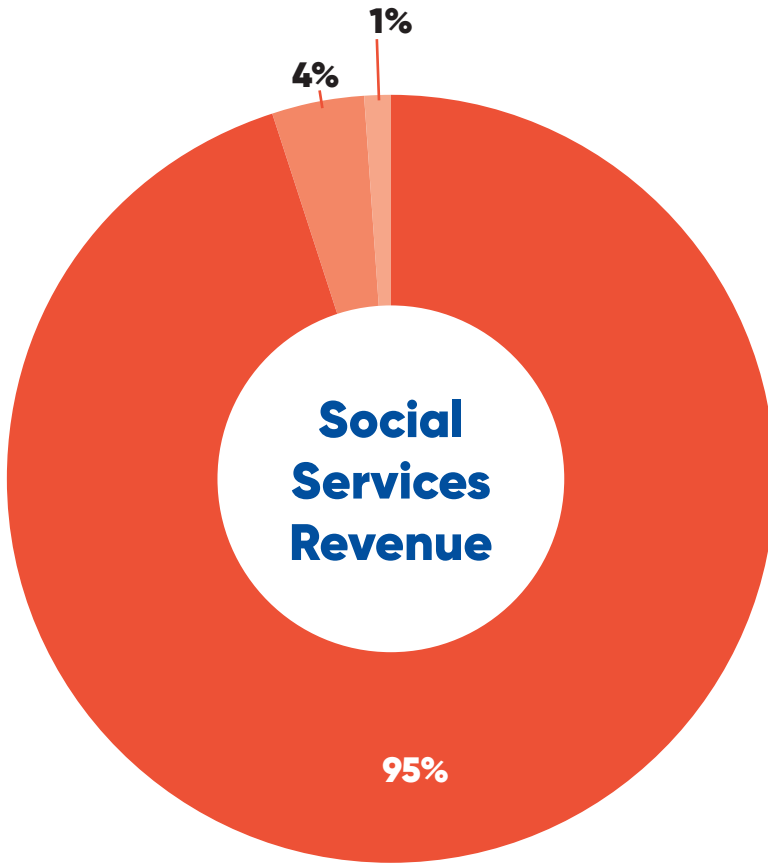


## Social Services Revenue

Total \$29,401,746

Seniors	42%
Empowerment	36%
Education	21%
Housing	3%

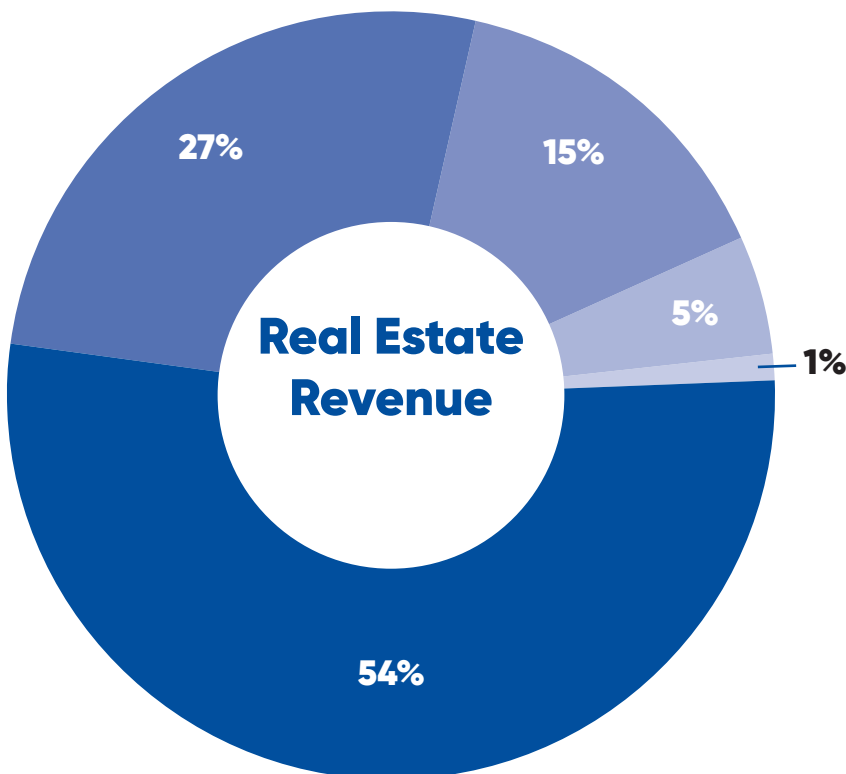




### Health Revenue

Total \$40,434,493

Homecare	95%
Moffat ALP	4%
Nutrition	1%

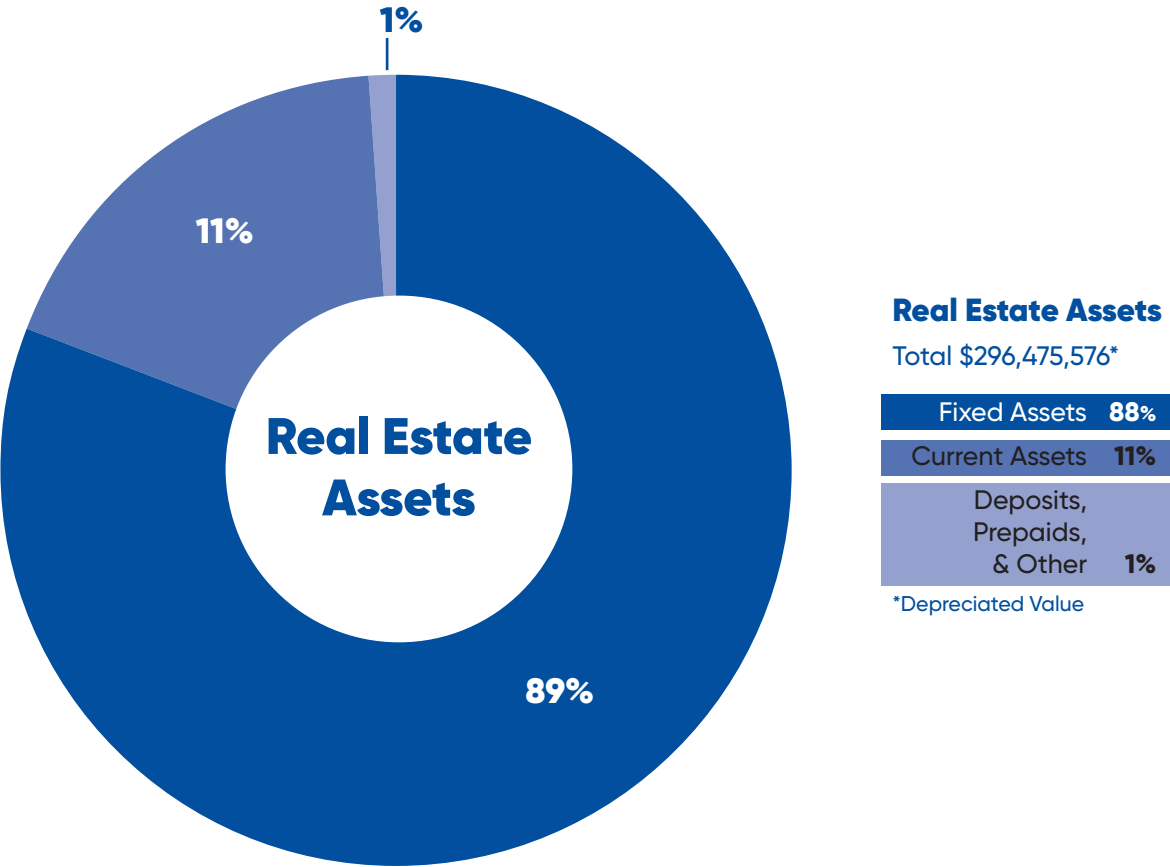


### Real Estate Revenue

Total \$29,763,907

LPs	33%
202s	33%
HDfCs	18%
Managed Only	5%
RiseBoro Management	1%

Financials continued  
on next page ▶



**Real Estate Assets**

Total \$296,475,576\*

LPs	\$176,111,094
202s	\$ 56,060,604
HDFCs	\$ 46,522,050
Managed Only	\$ 14,863,206
RiseBoro Management	\$ 2,918,622



## CONNECT WITH US



565 Bushwick Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

**P:** 718 821 0254  
**F:** 718 417 9056

**Web** [riseboro.org](http://riseboro.org)  
**Instagram** [RiseBoroNYC](#)  
**Twitter** [@RiseBoroNYC](#)  
**Facebook** [RiseBoroNYC](#)