



COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging: Subsidized Housing Living Laboratory Initiative, 2010

What is COLLAGE?

COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging was created in 2005 as a joint venture between Kendal Outreach, LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of The Kendal® Corporation, and the Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

COLLAGE is a customized suite of standardized and systematic assessment tools that evaluate health and wellness in areas such as memory loss, nutrition, balance and mental well-being. The information is collected in a national repository and disseminated to a consortium network consisting of continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), congregate senior housing sites, both market rate and subsidized, and senior service agencies. COLLAGE reports are provided to the COLLAGE membership on two platforms: individual resident assessment and organizational performance assessment of sites seek effective interventions, preventive programs and focused services.

The collected and analyzed data provide a framework to incorporate ongoing, systematic, and integrated assessment practices combined with evidence-based interventions in order to improve:

- the ability of older adults to remain independent,
- the overall quality, consistency, and continuity of health services across all levels of care,
- the effectiveness of programs and services, and
- organizations' ability to plan for the changing needs of older adults.

Launching a Subsidized Housing Living Laboratory

COLLAGE will be selecting a minimum of 15 subsidized housing sites nationally to participate in a "living laboratory" and mini-consortium of sites using the COLLAGE comprehensive assessment tools. Initial success in using assessment data to drive good decisions has been demonstrated within many of the CCRC communities participating in the program. As an example, Alexian Village of Milwaukee embraced the concept of using empirical data to support "doing the right things." Initial analysis encouraged the organization to focus on memory loss, pain, and depression in their residents. Ensuing adjustments and interventions resulted in increased resident satisfaction, and a significant reduction in healthcare services and the attendant costs.

Rationale for Using COLLAGE in Subsidized Housing

Using the COLLAGE integrated assessment information tool to capture essential health and wellness information has great potential to help resource-deprived subsidized housing older adults live and age more successfully. Similarly, aging services organizations who offer affordable housing services are looking for ways to improve their ability to advise their clients on matters of health, wellness and successful aging; improve their management of risk; and more successfully link

their clients to targeted community program and services that facilitate independence and reduce the risk of premature institutionalization.

Testing Assessment Data Collection Methods

We want to expand the current COLLAGE membership to subsidized housing sites nationally and we don't know enough about how the program is best operationalized in this setting. Our key question is: how do subsidized housing sites effectively collect assessment information with very limited staff or technology resources? How do sites best secure internal and external resources to implement the identified interventions and programs needed by clients?

We want to test different assessment data collection methods and identify the most effective and viable ones.

Overview of Implementation Steps

We envision the following general steps necessary for the development of a living laboratory and mini-consortium of sites, as proposed:

- Recruit up to 15 subsidized housing sites
- Work with each site to choose a primary and secondary method of assessment data collection. There are a number of alternative assessment strategies to ensure that communities are able to gather accurate, complete data, including: assessment by trained staff; assessment by trained volunteers; resident uses a free-standing computer kiosk, and paper/pencil.
- Launch COLLAGE at each site
 - Identify site coordinator, the liaison to the COLLAGE program staff
 - Implement web-based training programs for assessment coaches (staff or volunteers). Training content covers technology and coaching process.
 - Establish assessment completion goals for each site.
 - Participate in once every other month living laboratory group conference calls.

Participating Sites—Expectations

The participating sites agree to:

1. Choose one coordinator to participate in the Subsidized Housing Living Laboratory Initiative.
2. Ensure attendance of selected coordinator to participate in the initiative for a minimum of one year.
3. Ensure coordinator's availability to attend up to five, one-hour training webinars within the first two months of launch, and up to eight participant conference calls during year one.
4. Ensure the required program documentation is completed. Program documentation may include questionnaires or surveys related to the program objectives, and additional reports as required by the initiative.

Cost to Participate

The cost for subsidized housing to participate in this demonstration project is \$400/year, or, if an individual housing site has less than 80 clients, \$5/year/client.

Timeline for Participation

A web-based software application is presently being developed. This initiative will be launched when the web-based software is in production and is being used by present COLLAGE members, approximately August/September, 2010.

Application Now Being Accepted

We expect to generate substantial interest in this initiative. In order to be considered as a participant, please complete the one-page application below. Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2010 to be considered. Please make a copy of the completed application for yourself and send the original, pages 4 and 5, to the address below, and to the attention of: Neil Beresin, COLLAGE Program Manager. Questions? Contact us at 610.335.1283 or nberesin@collageaging.org.

If you are selected to participate, we will request a deposit for \$400 to hold your place.



Additional information about COLLAGE can be found at www.collageaging.org. We offer free monthly introductory webinars, also. Go to <http://collageaging.org/Site/Mbrship/IntroWebcasts.aspx> for dates and registration information.



*An Integrated Assessment Tool and Person-Centered
Process to Advance Healthy aging and Improve Outcomes*

Application to Participate in COLLAGE Subsidized Housing Living Laboratory Initiative, 2010

1. **Demographics:** Please provide the following information about your subsidized housing site:

§ # of residents:

§ # of units:

§ Staffing (position titles and # of FTEs):

2. **Assessment Tool:** Are you currently using an assessment tool? If yes, is it a government mandated tool? How often are you required to assess each resident? Who is responsible for completing the assessments? Is it automated (computerized) or paper and pencil? On average, approximately how long does it take your staff to complete an assessment?

3. **Alignment with Larger Goals:** How could participating in this initiative fit in with your organization's strategic goals?

4. *Significant Challenges:* What are your top 2 or 3 challenges as a subsidized housing site?

5. *Other:* Please share anything else you'd like us to know about your site (use other side of paper, if necessary)

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To be completed by the site administrator

Name of site_____

Address_____

Name of Administrator_____

E-mail address_____

Website address (if applicable)_____

Phone number_____

Administrator's signature_____ Today's date_____

**** Send the completed application, pages 4 and 5, to the address below and to the attention of: Neil Beresin, Program Manager ****



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