



-For Immediate Release-

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## **CONNECTICUT HOUSING PARTNERS AWARDED \$15,000 FROM BANK OF AMERICA FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT**

### **MERTON HOUSE II RECEIVES FUNDING TO SUPPORT 30 UNIT DEVELOPMENT**

December 2, 2024 (Trumbull, CT) - Connecticut Housing Partners (CHP) is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from Bank of America to support its efforts in developing Merton House II, a critical affordable housing project located at 43 Madison Avenue in Bridgeport's Hollow neighborhood.

This funding will provide essential operating support for CHP's Real Estate Development team as they plan, develop, and build Merton House II. The project, a collaboration with Catholic Charities of Bridgeport, aims to address the urgent need for affordable housing by creating 30 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

"This generous grant from Bank of America will directly support our mission to create safe, stable housing and empower families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency," said Renée Dobos, CEO of CT Housing Partners. "We are thrilled to have Bank of America as a partner in addressing the critical need for affordable housing in Bridgeport."

Building on the success of Merton I, a 22-unit supportive housing development adjacent to the new site, Merton House II will significantly enhance the Hollow neighborhood by providing comprehensive services aimed to improve residents' housing, health, finances, and well-being.

Merton House provides homes and supportive services for women and children who have experienced homelessness. With the help of the Bank of America Grant Funds, Merton II can become a reality to provide another 30 at-risk families with an opportunity to thrive.

This project is vital for Bridgeport, where shelters are at capacity and housing waitlists remain long. Catholic Charities, which granted CHP site control of the property, is highly supportive of the initiative. Together, CHP and Catholic Charities are committed to creating a sustainable housing solution for the city's most vulnerable populations.

Connecticut Housing Partners CEO, Renée Dobos stated, "Increasing the supply of affordable supportive housing in Bridgeport through the development of Merton II will promote integration and provide underserved and marginalized populations with the opportunity to live in safe, high-quality, affordable rental housing. This initiative is committed to offering individuals the resources they need, including basic essentials, mental health services, transportation assistance, and accommodation options."

Bank of America stated in the award letter, “Bank of America is committed to lending, investing, and giving in order to build thriving communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic mobility. Providing support to organizations that are offering critical services and programs is just one of the ways we are helping improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.”

Safe and stable housing is the foundation for success, particularly for families with children. Housing stability fosters social and emotional development, improves physical and mental health, and supports academic progress. By expanding the Merton development, CHP aims to meet the growing demand for affordable housing while contributing to the long-term revitalization of the Hollow neighborhood.

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#### ABOUT CONNECTICUT HOUSING PARTNERS

Connecticut Housing Partners is part of NeighborWorks America’s selective national network of organizations, committed to driving and sustaining positive change. Our mission for nearly 35 years is to strengthen communities by providing housing and services to enhance the quality of life for low- and moderate-income families in Connecticut. We do this by developing, building, preserving, and maintaining high-quality affordable housing. We use a partnership-based and community-led approach to maximize our reach and impact. CHP is committed to creating long-lasting systematic change for individuals and families in need and providing sustainable solutions to solve the housing crisis and put an end to homelessness. <https://cthousingpartners.org/>