



**Nonprofit Westchester Statement on Capital Budget Released**  
**By County Executive George Latimer**  
October, 2021

The proposed 2022 Westchester County Capital Budget released by County Executive George Latimer on October 14, 2021 includes a \$50 million investment in affordable housing - an increase from \$20M in 2021, the largest increase in history.

The County operates two capital programs for affordable housing - a land acquisition program to help affordable housing developers purchase land and an infrastructure program to support bringing utilities and necessary systems to sites. Both programs come with 50-year affordability requirements and have excellent track records in fostering the development of quality affordable housing.

Nonprofit Westchester strongly supports the inclusion of these additional resources for affordable housing in the capital budget and urges its passing by the Westchester County Board of Legislators. This investment is a critical step forward in addressing the urgent need for safe and affordable housing in Westchester County.

“Nonprofit Westchester applauds County Executive Latimer for his continued focus on affordable housing as a critical element in advancing equity and the economic health of Westchester. The \$50 million in County funding provides incentives for development of housing options for lower income residents that are needed in almost every town and village in the County. We hope the County’s leadership will stimulate local communities to identify parcels that could be used for housing,” stated Anahaita Kotval, CEO of Lifting Up Westchester and President of Nonprofit Westchester.

Affordable housing is critical to the overall vitality and economic stability of Westchester. The toll of the housing crisis is felt disproportionately among people served by our county’s nonprofit organizations, as well as the nonprofit workforce. Nonprofit Westchester conducted a study that showed that while 40% of people in Westchester are housing burdened, 70% of nonprofit essential workers are housing burdened. These are the individuals who deliver essential services and are predominantly women and people of color.

Improving upon and building new units of affordable housing will fortify our communities, make Westchester more attractive to new people and families, support the quality of education for all children, and ensure that a growing population of older adults have safe and viable housing options. Affordable housing will help address some of the most important issues of our time including a history of racial discrimination in housing that has resulted in an ever-growing wealth gap, environmental threats, and workforce development.

Westchester County produced a Housing Needs Assessment in 2019 that quantified the need for affordable housing in the County at 82,451 units, including the need for 11,703 new affordable housing units. This is an urgent crisis that requires increased resources now to make progress towards these goals.

Rich Nightingale, President and CEO of Westhab and Vice President of Nonprofit Westchester, added, “The immense need for affordable housing in our community is undeniable. We have an economy that relies on the contributions of people of all incomes, yet we have a housing stock that only works for people at the top. This is unsustainable. Housing that works for all members of our community is the key missing link for Westchester’s future success.”

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