

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
September 8, 2020



Mayor Joe Hogsett Announces CARES Act funding for Rapid Rehousing
\$7.1m from HUD to power partnership with CHIP and Merchants Affordable Housing Corp.

INDIANAPOLIS -- Today Mayor Joe Hogsett joined Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, Executive Director of CHIP, and Janine Betsey, President and CEO of Merchants Affordable Housing Corp., to announce that \$7.1 million in federal CARES Act funding will be used toward rapid re-housing programming for those currently experiencing homelessness. As service providers in Indianapolis continue to seek creative solutions that get vulnerable populations off the streets and out of congregate emergency shelters during COVID-19, rapid re-housing will serve as an important and long-term solution to keep people healthy and safe by providing rental assistance and services.

“Today’s announcement of \$7.1 million in CARES Act funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is a significant boost to our existing COVID-19 Relief programming and numerous efforts concerned with homelessness,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “This is a strong step toward securing housing for our city’s most vulnerable neighbors. I’m thankful to CHIP and Merchants Affordable Housing Corp. for their partnership during this crucial time.”

Rapid re-housing provides up to 12 months of rental assistance and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Goals include helping people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed long-term. It is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the needs of the person. Rental assistance will make up 70% of the program, supportive services 20%, and administrative costs will take up 10% of the funding.

“Living unhoused is incompatible with staying healthy and safe in the midst of this public health crisis. We have an amazing opportunity to leverage this funding and the dedication of our provider community to secure and support hundreds of households through permanent housing,” said Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, executive director of CHIP. “Creating a rehousing infrastructure with Merchants Affordable Housing will allow our partners to do this work at scale and to build a robust way of expanding inventory, identifying units, and engaging with landlords.”

In July the City of Indianapolis [announced](#) that eight local organizations and the Indy Continuum of Care would be allocated \$2.7 million in CARES Act ESG-CV. The competitive application process prioritized funding to rapidly rehouse persons living in non-congregate shelter housing and help operate emergency non-congregate shelters for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those organizations are ASPIRE Indiana Health, Coburn Place Safe



Haven, Damien Center, Horizon House, HVAF of Indiana Inc., Stopover, Inc., Dayspring Center, and Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis. Earlier that same month, the City announced that up to \$650,000 would be awarded to Horizon House to expand permanent supportive housing services for unsheltered individuals and families through the Housing to Recovery Fund.

“We look forward to partnering with the City of Indianapolis to support vulnerable residents by administering funds and ensuring timely payments to owners,” said Janine Betsey, President and CEO of Merchants Affordable Housing Corp. “We have the capacity and expertise to build a system-facing team with expertise to engage landlords, hold units, expand inventory, leverage flexible funds to rapidly overcome barriers, and keep people in stable, permanent housing.”

###

About the Department of Metropolitan Development

DMD’s Community Investments team administers grants made available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) throughout Indianapolis neighborhoods. These grants are allocated to organizations that provide decent, affordable housing and economic development opportunities, support human services initiatives, and serve low-to-moderate income populations. <https://indy.gov/dmd>

About the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)

The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness prevention and intervention in the greater Indianapolis area. www.chipindy.org

About Merchants Affordable Housing Corp.

Merchants Affordable Housing Corp. is a 501c3 that has been developing affordable housing units since 1981. Merchants works to create stable, vibrant and healthy communities by developing or acquiring affordable rental housing properties. Merchant’s goal is to use resources and expertise to build or acquire and upgrade multifamily rental properties so that residents who lack the economic resources to access quality rental housing opportunities have a clean, safe environment in which to live.

<https://www.merchantsaffordablehousing.org/>

###