

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024**



Mayor Joe Hogsett, community partners unveil new affordable homeownership options

New Near Westside homes developed as part of City program utilizing vacant and unused property; Program is part of City's strategy to bolster local housing options

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the [Westside Community Development Corporation \(WCDC\)](#) joined Mayor Joe Hogsett, [Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development \(DMD\)](#) Director Megan Vukusich, [National Urban League](#) Vice President Leslie Andrews, and [Citizens Energy Group](#) President and CEO Jeff Harrison to showcase two new homeownership opportunities on the city's Near Westside.

The Near West Horizon Project, which includes two homes at 1401 and 1407 N. Pershing Ave., is made possible through the City's [Vacant to Vibrant](#) pilot program, which leverages [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) and [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) Program funds to develop new affordable housing on under-utilized City-owned properties.

"These two new homes demonstrate a larger commitment from the City of Indianapolis to end the shortage of affordable housing once and for all," said Mayor Hogsett. "The Vacant to Vibrant program will continue to fund projects that bolster affordable housing opportunities on property that otherwise would have remained vacant and unused."

Today's ceremony celebrates the completion and availability of both homes, which anyone making 80 percent of the Area Median Income can purchase. The project is funded by \$300,000 in ARPA funds awarded to the City.

In July 2023, the [City of Indianapolis announced 10 winning proposals](#) for its Vacant to Vibrant program. The City has awarded \$5.86 million to support the creation of more than four dozen homes available for rent, ownership and lease-to-purchase.

"The Westside Community Development Corporation, on behalf of the Haughville neighborhood, thanks the funders and partners that facilitate the development of the Near West Horizon homes," said WCDC CEO Beverly Mukes-Gaither. "This project offers more affordable housing options to local residents, which is especially important at a time many are facing housing insecurity."

Along with the funds and properties awarded by the City, the WCDC leveraged funds through the Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative (IAAQLI) and a low interest line of credit

from Citizen's Energy Group to redevelop the previously city-owned lots into high-quality, affordable homes.

"Citizens Energy Group is proud to partner with Westside Community Development Corporation to provide affordable homes to the area through our Investment Collaboration on Neighborhoods (ICON) affordable loan program," said J.P. Ghio, President of ICON and Vice President of Energy Operations.

The Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP) also provided a small grant in support of the WCDC's affordable housing program and is working with the WCDC and the listing realtor on referrals of qualified buyers and a potential mortgage lender. Both homes are included in the upcoming INHP posted tour of available properties for sale to low-and-moderate income buyers.

Amid a nationwide housing crisis, the Hogsett administration's housing agenda is an all-hands-on-deck effort that leverages local, state, and federal tools to implement a strategy across Indianapolis neighborhoods by investing millions of dollars into [anti-displacement programs](#), housing first/permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness, and the [continued creation and preservation of quality affordable housing](#).

Programs administered by DMD supporting the creation of affordable rental and ownership opportunities include the annual [Continuum of Care](#) awards, [Community Investments Application](#), [Emergency Solutions Grant](#) + [Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS](#) application, [Housing to Recovery Fund](#), and the recently announced [Homeowner Repair Program](#). In addition to programs within DMD, the administration's [Office of Public Health and Safety](#) offers several housing stability and homelessness prevention programs to residents like [Pathway to Employment](#), the [Tenant Legal Assistance Project](#) and the [Tenant Advocacy Project](#).

Those interested in more information on the homes should contact:

WCDC Executive Administrator Mary Murff: 317-441-8565 | mmurff@wcdcindy.ngo

###

About Westside Community Development Corporation:

WCDC's mission is to stabilize & revitalize the Near Westside via housing and commercial development, property management, and community planning. Stabilizing families by developing a range of affordable housing options and related supportive services is WCDC's secondary mission.

About the Department of Metropolitan Development:

The Department of Metropolitan Development works to shape the city's identity by strengthening people and places, building upon our history, and fostering visionary development. DMD envisions Indianapolis as a growing, vibrant, and beautiful city where people and businesses thrive in an inclusive, world-class community.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Mary Murff, Executive Administrator

Westside Community Development Corporation

317-441-8565 | mmurff@wcdcindy.ngo
2232 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46222

City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development

317-327-6709 | DMDCommunications@indy.gov

200 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

[Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Linktree](#)

[Subscribe to City-County newsletters](#)

For more information: indy.gov