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CEDAC Partners with VA To Fund “Bedford Green Apartments” Supportive Housing For Homeless Veterans

Bedford, Mass. (June 29, 2015) – The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) announced today that it will administer funds from the state’s Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF) that have been awarded to the Bedford Green Apartments development. This development, which is holding a groundbreaking today and which is also being funded through Veterans’ Administration (VA) grants, will provide permanent supportive housing for 69 homeless veterans and was designed in collaboration with the Rogers VA Medical Center, also located in Bedford. The project is in keeping with the goal, outlined by President Obama in 2010, of ending homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015.

“We’re tremendously proud to be taking a lead role in the development of the Bedford Green Apartments, which will provide not just housing but a supportive environment and services for a critically underserved community,” said Roger Herzog, CEDAC’s Executive Director. “This development will put us one step closer to the goal established by both the state and federal governments that no veteran will be without housing and services.”

The Bedford Green Apartments are meant to provide more than just a roof over the head of veterans that have struggled with homelessness and medical issues. On-site case workers will work with staff at the nearby Rogers VA Medical Center to address physical and mental health challenges facing some of the residents. Additionally, one apartment unit will be occupied by a peer live-in responder, who can relate to troubled veterans as fellow veteran and provide 24/7 assistance. Apartments will be of high quality and fully furnished, in order to provide a smoother transition for residents coming to the unit with little or no possessions of their own. A van and driver will provide transportation to help residents access services like grocery shopping or medical appointments, and a computer center will be available for veterans to connect with family, friends, and career or volunteer opportunities.

“The Bedford Green Apartments will be following a model that has been proven to work in other settings, and we’re excited to begin applying it here in Bedford,” said Susan Gustin, Director of Public Relations and Creative for Peabody Properties, which is developing the Bedford Green property. “We’re especially pleased that VA Secretary McDonald was able to tour the site last month and voice his enthusiasm for the project.”
Massachusetts is a national leader in its care of homeless veterans, and was the first state to outline a comprehensive plan to end veteran homelessness by 2015. According to the Commonwealth, there are more than 1,100 homeless veterans in Massachusetts overall, accounting for 19 percent of all homeless adults. One tool that is being used to address this challenge is the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund (HPSTF), which was established by the Legislature in 2013 to coordinate, for the first time, the allocation of three funding sources - capital funds, operating dollars, and service money for community-based care - to help create more supportive housing.

Construction at the site of the future Bedford Green Apartments, which is estimated to cost $20 million, began at the end of March and is expected to be completed by April 2016. Upon completion, the project is expected to house nearly 60 veterans and provide dozens more with supportive services.

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**About CEDAC**
CEDAC is a public-private community development finance institution that provides financial resources and technical expertise for community-based and other non-profit organizations engaged in effective community development in Massachusetts. CEDAC’s work supports three key building blocks of community development: affordable housing, workforce development, and early care and education. CEDAC is also active in state and national housing preservation policy research and development and is widely recognized as a leader in the non-profit community development industry. For additional information on CEDAC and their current projects, please visit [www.cedac.org](http://www.cedac.org).