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News Release



GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive

Date: September 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

***Westchester County Executive George Latimer To Announce The Community Build Back Program
To Assist Westchester Residents Facing Homelessness Due To The Covid-19 Pandemic***

**Thursday, September 17
2:30p.m.
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Ave.
9th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601**

In an effort to stabilize communities and families in the County impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Westchester County Executive George Latimer is announcing the Community Build Back Program. The four pronged umbrella Program has four programs under it. Two utilize HUD money, the RED STOP Eviction Project and the RED Rent HELP Project, and two separate ones utilize \$10 million dollars in CARES ACT money the Blue Priority Homeowners Initiative and the Blue Small Business Landlord Initiative.

The RED STOP Eviction Project utilizes federal HUD funds and will provide up to 4 months of rental or utility arrears for tenants facing eviction or shut off as long as they can demonstrate that their financial hardship is due to COVID. Tenants must be within 21 days of eviction, must demonstrate ability to pay their rent going forward, and must live in a Westchester Urban County Consortium municipality. Assistance is available through select non-profits including: Westchester Residential Opportunities, Community Housing Innovations, Washingtonville Housing Alliance and Choice of New Rochelle.

RED Rent HELP Project – “moving forward” also utilizes federal HUD funds and will provide up to 12 months of rental assistance for families impacted by COVID but focus on households where the tenants worked in industries closed until Phase 4, or who worked for a business that no longer exists. RED Rent HELP Project will be run by the County’s Planning Department.

The Blue Priority Homeowners Initiative, uses \$2.5 million dollars and focuses on homeowners facing foreclosure. That part of the Program, which is estimated to help 325 households in the County, and assist them with up to 4 months of mortgage / cooperative arrears. Homeowners must show that COVID has negatively impacted their ability to pay their mortgage. The homeowner will also have to show that they were up to date on payments as of March 2020. This part of the Program also runs until the end of the year and will be administered through select nonprofits including: Westchester Residential Opportunities, **Community Housing Innovations**, Washingtonville Housing Alliance, HDSW (Human Development Services of Westchester) and the Bridge Fund.

For the Blue Small Business Landlord Initiative, \$7.5 million dollars has been earmarked to assist approximately 2,400 households in the County by working directly with their landlords and bringing their rent up to date. The Program runs from now until the end of 2020, and can cover up to 75% of back rent for up to 4 months of rent for landlords who can show that their tenants were up to date in March, but have since not been able to pay their rent due to COVID. This program, to be done by lottery, will assist landlords who own between 4 and 20 units. Blue Small Business Landlord Initiative will be run by the County’s Planning Department.

About Westchester County

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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