



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CHI CEO and Executive Director Alexander Roberts to Step Down at End of March**

After 30 years as CEO and Executive Director of Community Housing Innovations (CHI), Alexander Roberts will step down from that position to pursue the systemic change that motivated him to start the agency. Roberts will remain on the CHI Board and work on strategic initiatives to bring more resources to the agency. CHI is the largest provider of emergency housing on Long Island, and one of the largest in Orange, Dutchess and Westchester Counties. It also has provided more than \$17 million in New York State down payment assistance and counseling to 750 first-time homebuyers in Westchester and on Long Island.

After a two-month search, CHI Board Chair Steve Gifford announced that the board has selected Ronald Rosado Abad to lead the agency, starting March 29th.

“Alec Roberts has been a giant in the field of suburban homelessness and affordable housing since founding the agency, and his shoes will be difficult to fill,” said Gifford. “However, we are delighted to welcome Ron Abad, who brings a unique blend of experience and mission to the role.”

Mr. Abad is currently serving as the Senior Vice President for Acacia Network Housing, one of New York City’s largest providers of homeless services. In that capacity, he has oversight of 4,500 homeless units and beds for Families with Children, Individuals and Couples and a \$250 million budget. Prior to that he served as the Chief Operating Officer of Urban Pathways, with a budget of \$25 million.

Mr. Abad has extensive experience as well in government, serving as Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Homeless Services from 2008-2015, in charge of Families with Children shelter procurement, contracts management, budget negotiations, and capacity management.

#### **A Compelling Personal Story**

The Bronx native grew up poor in a family of Puerto Rican immigrants, earning his bachelor’s degree from prestigious Howard University and a law degree from Boston

College. Today, he lives in Peekskill, Westchester County, and is active in his community, including as a member of the board of his church.

Mr. Roberts will remain on the CHI Board and continue to work on strategic initiatives as well as advocacy. He started the agency in 1991 out of his house in Rye Brook, and guided the nonprofit to its current position with 300 employees and a budget of \$32 million.

Mr. Roberts will continue to serve as CEO and Executive Director until Mr. Abad arrives on March 29th, and will help him through the transition.

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High-resolution photo of Alexander Roberts: <https://bit.ly/37EltqJ>

High-resolution photo of Ronald Rosado Abad: <https://bit.ly/3shK1PI>

#### About CHI

Mission: Community Housing Innovations, Inc. provides housing and human services that support social and economic independence.

What we do: For 30 years, CHI has served tens of thousands of homeless and low-to-moderate income families on Long Island, in Westchester, and across the Hudson Valley. Each night, CHI provides emergency housing to more than 1,000 homeless adults and children in five New York counties: Nassau, Suffolk, Orange, Dutchess and Westchester. CHI is also committed to ensuring that permanent affordable housing is available to people of modest means.