



HOUSING NETWORK  
OF RHODE ISLAND

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rhode Island Lawmakers Join Housing Network of Rhode Island and Pawtucket Central Falls Development for A Construction Tour of 44 Central Street and Surrounding Redevelopment Projects**

*44 Central Street is a vital part of the redevelopment of the Central Street neighborhood*

**Central Falls, RI** – Rhode Island House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, members of the General Assembly, housing officials, and advocates joined the Housing Network of Rhode Island and Pawtucket Central Falls Development (PCF Development) for a special construction tour of 44 Central Street and nearby redevelopment projects. The tour provided an inside look at the ongoing development of 62 new and preserved income-restricted rental homes across 12 properties that are part of a vital effort by PCF Development to bring new life and opportunity to the Central Street neighborhood.

“The development at 44 Central Street is exactly the type of project we need more of in Rhode Island: mixed-use, affordable, and inclusive housing, with services and resources for residents,” said House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi. “It is also noteworthy that the City of Central Falls has been supportive of this development, and the resulting partnership will create beautiful, safe homes for working families.”

The Central Street redevelopment includes a mix of one- to four-bedroom rental units with affordable rents starting at \$800 with options up to \$1,900. 44 Central Street is situated in the heart of Central Falls, within walking distance of local schools, shops, and parks, and offers easy access to public transportation. The property will also feature two community commercial spaces, including a Homeownership and Financial Education Center.

“44 Central Street shows what we can achieve when we come together to address the housing crisis,” said Melina Lodge, Executive Director of the Housing Network of Rhode Island. “This development is a great example of how affordable housing can change neighborhoods and give families the chance to thrive. It offers easy access to shops, restaurants, public transportation, parks, and services, along with community spaces and an accessible design that makes it welcoming for everyone. By strategically focusing state investments in developments like this statewide, we can help ensure that everyone in Rhode Island has a safe, healthy, and affordable place to call home, along with the support they need to build a better future for themselves.”

44 Central incorporates key accessible design features including wider doorways and hallways, lever door handles, accessible light switches, and thermostats. Roll-in showers will be installed in at least one out of every five accessible units, and in-wall blocking is included to support future grab bar installations. These thoughtful elements prioritize safety, convenience, and accessibility for all residents.

“At PCF Development, we are deeply committed to the residents of Pawtucket and Central Falls,” said Linda Weisinger, Executive Director of Pawtucket Central Falls Development. “44 Central Street represents our dedication to revitalizing neighborhoods and providing affordable, quality housing for our community. This project is not just about building homes—it's about creating a stronger, more vibrant neighborhood where families can grow and thrive for years to come. The impact of these new and revitalized homes will be felt for generations, and we are proud to play a role in shaping the future of these communities.”

The [2024 HousingWorks RI Fact Book](#) highlights a severe housing crisis in Central Falls and Pawtucket. In Central Falls, where the median income is \$43,092, 74% of residents rent, and 60% are cost-burdened, defined as spending more than 30% of their income on housing. With average two-bedroom rents at \$1,637, Central Falls families need an income of \$65,480 to afford housing—well above what many families in the city earn. In Pawtucket, the median income is \$62,799, with 52% of residents renting and 47% of renters cost-burdened. The average two-bedroom rent is \$1,765, requiring an income of \$70,600—again, beyond the reach of many local families. Developments like Central Street aim to meet these housing needs by offering residents a path to safe, stable, affordable housing.

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**The Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI)** is a membership organization made up of 19 community development corporations and affordable housing developers. Together, our members are dedicated to building affordable housing and strengthening communities across the state.

HNRI members include: Church Community Housing Corporation, Crossroads Rhode Island, Foster Forward, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Providence and East Bay, House of Hope Community Development Corporation, Jonnycake Center, NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, Omni Development Corporation, ONE Neighborhood Builders, Pawtucket Central Falls Development, Pawtucket Housing Authority, Providence Revolving Fund, Sojourner House, South County Habitat for Humanity, SWAP (Stop Wasting Abandoned Property) Inc., Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, WARM Center, West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation & Women’s Development Corporation