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## **Downstreet Housing and Community Development Receives \$250,000 Disaster Recovery Funds from NeighborWorks America in Response to Historic Flooding in Vermont**

*Funding will enable Downstreet to continue critical flood recovery work in Central Vermont*

**BARRE, VT** – Downstreet Housing and Community Development (Downstreet) is pleased to announce that we have been awarded significant disaster recovery funding from NeighborWorks America in response to the flooding that devastated Vermont in July 2023. The generous \$250,000 grant will help make critical repairs to damaged buildings and ensure that our housing is more resilient in the face of future disasters.

For over two decades, NeighborWorks America, a Congressionally-chartered nonprofit organization dedicated to creating places of opportunity in communities across the country, has directed federal funds to Central Vermont through Downstreet. NeighborWorks investments in Central Vermont have supported the creation of hundreds of homes, and this current grant helps ensure the on-going sustainability of the affordable housing owned and operated by Downstreet.

"While this level of funding from NeighborWorks was unexpected," said **Angie Harbin, Executive Director of Downstreet Housing and Community Development**, "we are not at all surprised by a deep-level of support. NeighborWorks shares our commitment to promoting strong, thriving communities through the power of affordable housing, and we are deeply grateful for their collaboration and partnership."

"Partnerships like ours are critical to helping organizations and communities recover when disaster strikes," said **Joanie Straussman Brandon, regional vice president, NeighborWorks America Northeast Region**. "Downstreet Housing & Community Development is a chartered member of the NeighborWorks network, and we are proud to provide them with funds to repair and fortify their affordable housing developments."

"In Vermont and across the country, we are in the midst of a housing crisis that is completely unacceptable – a crisis that has been made significantly worse by the devastating summer floods," said **Senator Sanders**. "Downstreet's Montpelier and Barre homes and their residents were among the hardest hit by this flooding disaster, and these federal funds for Downstreet Housing will be critical in their recovery. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that all people – including working families, seniors, and people with disabilities – have safe, affordable, and high-quality places to call home."

"This summer's floods were devastating to communities across our state—hitting folks in central Vermont especially hard. This disaster recovery funding from the Congressionally-chartered NeighborWorks America will help Downstreet in their efforts to support Vermonters through the flood access housing, and help them build back stronger and more resilient than before," said **Senator Welch**.

**Representative Balint** said, "This Congressionally chartered funding from NeighborWorks America is going to play a critical role in getting Vermonters the assistance we need to recover from the devastation of this summer's flooding. Supporting resiliency in our communities is a top priority in the face of more and more climate emergencies. I'm pleased to see this funding enable Downstreet to continue to the essential work they're doing to support recovery in Central Vermont."

The NeighborWorks disaster recovery funding will be instrumental in the following ways:

- **Affordable Housing Rehabilitation:** Downstreet buildings sustained over \$1M in damages as a result of the storm. We will allocate funds to repair and rebuild these affordable homes that were damaged during the flooding, and ensure that vulnerable people have access to safe and stable housing.
- **Resiliency Programs:** A portion of the funding will be dedicated to initiatives that enhance resiliency of our buildings and preparedness for future disasters. This includes disaster planning, updates to critical infrastructure, and energy efficiency upgrades.

Downstreet would like to express our gratitude to NeighborWorks for their support during this challenging time. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by the historic flooding in Vermont.

For more information about Downstreet and our ongoing recovery efforts, please visit our website at [www.downstreet.org](http://www.downstreet.org).

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#### **About Downstreet Housing and Community Development:**

Downstreet Housing and Community Development is a non-profit organization that strengthens the communities of Central Vermont by creating permanently affordable homes, promoting equity and inclusion, and connecting people to the resources and services they need to thrive. Since 1987, Downstreet has been enriching neighborhoods in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties through real estate development projects, homeownership programs, supportive services and SASH® (Support & Services at Home), which helps older and disabled Vermonters to age in place, and a rental portfolio that provides safe, healthy, mixed-income rentals to over 500 households in apartments and manufactured housing communities.