

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Leigh Davis

413.429.4855

ldavis@constructberkshire.org

Construct Announces First-Time Homebuyers Closing Cost Grant

Great Barrington, Mass. – Construct has announced a “final mile” closing cost grant of \$2,500 available to low-to-moderate-income south Berkshire County residents to help create access to home ownership.

Massachusetts State Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli successfully introduced an amendment to the Massachusetts American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the Fiscal 2023 Budget, appropriating \$100,000 for a Berkshire County first-time home buyers’ program. Working with area mortgage brokers, Construct administers the funds to provide eligible candidates with “final mile grants” for closing expenses. Berkshire County residents who have already been approved through their financial institution and earn up to 100% of AMI will be eligible.

“I’m a firm believer that creating a path to homeownership is the most effective way for people to build equity,” said Pignatelli. “We want people to be able to live in the Berkshires, establish roots here, work, and raise their families. I hope these ARPA funds will help Construct continue and grow their great work in our community.”

Applicant's eligibility is based on Area Median Income (AMI) and the town of the home they are purchasing. This program is available to the towns of Alford, Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge.

Construct is working with mortgage officers at Lee Bank, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Adams Community Bank, Pittsfield Cooperative Bank, and Berkshire Bank, who have applications for those who are income eligible. Contact Housing Navigator Kate Coulehan at kcoulehan@constructberkshire.org for more information.

ABOUT CONSTRUCT, INC.

Based in Great Barrington, Construct has been the leading nonprofit provider of affordable housing and supportive services to south Berkshire County residents in need for over 50 years. With a small, highly skilled staff and committed volunteers, Construct leverages time, talent, money, and long-standing community relationships to support its mission. Providing over 80 permanent, affordable housing options,

Construct also offers ten units for individuals transitioning out of homelessness. The bulk of Construct's annual income comes from individual donors. With this support, Construct helps rebuild security, stability, and hope in the southern Berkshires.

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