

For Immediate Release

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Community Access Responds to Governor Cuomo’s Halt of Non-Essential Construction Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

(New York, NY, 3/27/2020) – Cal Hedigan, CEO of Community Access, a nonprofit serving individuals living with mental health concerns and one of New York City’s leading affordable and supportive housing developers, released the following statement in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s halt of non-essential construction:

“We commend Governor Cuomo for allowing the construction of affordable housing to continue. He is right that it is an essential service.

The need for affordable housing in New York City has long been urgent and will only become more so as a growing number of New Yorkers experience new economic hardships resulting from the necessary steps taken by New York State to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

As this pandemic makes evident, the ability of all New Yorkers to access permanent housing is not only a moral imperative but a matter of public health. Those currently living on the streets or in our shelter system are among the most vulnerable to exposure to COVID-19. They are also often the most vulnerable to experiencing its severe or critical symptoms, given the many pre-existing health conditions with which they live. The development of more affordable housing is a preventive measure that can help safeguard vulnerable individuals against future pandemics.

We also commend and express our most profound appreciation for the construction workers who continue this vital work. They, along with our city’s human service workers, grocery workers, healthcare workers, pharmacy workers, and mail and delivery workers, are serving New York heroically.

To date, Community Access has developed 17 buildings and 1,600 units of affordable housing throughout the city. We currently have approximately 400 new units in the pipeline that will provide safe, permanent housing for more than 1,000 New Yorkers in need.”

About Community Access:

Community Access' mission is to expand opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

www.communityaccess.org

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