

Way Finders' mission is to “build and advocate for a thriving and equitable region by improving the stability and economic mobility of families and individuals, together with developing and managing a wide range of housing to support strong communities.” For the past 50 years, Way Finders has committed our resources to eliminating family homelessness, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and developing neighborhoods where all people have access to equitable resources in communities where all people can live with dignity.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit Community Development Organization, Way Finders works with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit agencies to develop comprehensive housing development in Western Massachusetts and to deliver critical services that support stable housing and economic mobility for low-income residents and homeless families. Among our services are emergency housing; rental assistance; employment support and economic mobility programs; financial and homebuyer education; coordinated resident services, and community building and engagement initiatives. Way Finders has added over 1,300 units of affordable housing to the region through rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and new construction.

### **Goal One: Development, Preservation, and Management of Affordable Housing**

Way Finders will increase and preserve the supply of affordable rental housing and provide high quality property management and resident services. By December 2023, we will complete and lease-up two development projects: Library Commons, Phase I, Holyoke (38 units) and Rosewood Way Townhomes, Agawam (62 units). We will also continue construction of Library Commons, Phase II, Holyoke (40 units) and The Plaza, South Hadley (60 units, mixed income).

### **Goal Two: Family Economic Stability and Asset Building**

Our economic mobility, employment support, and financial education programs provide education and support services to assist low-income residents in attaining economic security, and we have established target goals for enrollment in each program area. In total, our programs will reach nearly 2,500 area residents by December 2023 and will assist an estimated 170 residents in purchasing a first home.

### **Goal Three: Comprehensive Community Development and Resident Engagement**

Our goals for resident engagement in targeted neighborhoods in Holyoke are to continue working with the Chestnut Community Alliance, increase capacity of the Resident Leadership training program by adding Spanish language training, and build and strengthen partnerships with other organizations – and municipal leaders – to bring about new community building and development initiatives.

In Springfield, we will expand our current programs in targeted neighborhoods to improve the built environment and increase residents' well-being through ongoing Community Advocate (CA) and Resident Health Advocate (RHA) Programs. Advocacy training is aimed increasing residents' community leadership skills and knowledge of issues they have identified as critical so they can be active participants in civic life, working toward policy change and policy implementation.

