

**WASHINGTON, DC**— Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that the Connecticut and New London-based The Connection Fund secured a \$2.294 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to construct supportive housing for persons with disabilities. The new apartment complex will house 12 persons with chronic mental illness in 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. In addition to the grant award, The Connection Fund also secured a three-year rental subsidy of \$180,900, which can be renewed at the end of three years. Congressman Courtney strongly supported The Connection Fund’s grant application and wrote to HUD urging the agency to approve the funding that was secured today.

“This is a tremendous victory for New London and its residents with disabilities,” **said Congressman Courtney.**

“Since 1972, The Connection has helped families across Connecticut tackle serious problems with community-based programs. This funding will help in that mission, providing a central, safe location for persons with chronic mental illness to receive the assistance they need.”

A community center will contain a large common room, offices, and a laundry room. The residents will have access to social services, employment assistance and training in life skills. The project will also create exterior areas for walking, sitting and gardening. Mass transit, shopping and services are within walking distance. The project encompasses the latest green technology and energy efficiencies, and there will be a garden for residents and the community.

“The Connection Fund is honored to receive this award, which allows us to turn a blighted property into a vibrant community for some of our neediest citizens,” **said Peter Nucci, CEO of The Connection.**

“Supportive housing projects are a classic ‘win-win’ -- they provide quality services and raise property values, while reducing the burden on taxpayers by preventing higher costs like hospitalizations. We look forward to working with our partners to bring this project to fruition.”

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