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GHHI awarded \$750,000 by Congress to improve health, housing, and energy equity for families in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, MD---On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the bipartisan 2023 omnibus funding bill into law that included \$750,000 in congressionally directed funding for the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) "1,000 Homes Project" in Baltimore.

"The congressional funding represents a tangible and transformative commitment to GHHI's national model for holistic, healthy, and climate-friendly housing, addressing the root causes of health and racial disparities arising from housing-related asthma, lead poisoning, injury, and energy inefficiency for low-income Baltimore residents," said Joy Moore, Chair of the GHHI Board of Directors.

"We are grateful for the leadership of U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.), and Congressman Kweisi Mfume (MD-07) in securing this investment to further advance our work to address the social determinants of health that have prevented generations of families and communities in Baltimore from thriving."

The funds GHHI receives will be put toward its "1,000 Healthy Homes" project in Baltimore, designed to improve housing conditions, health, economic, environmental, and racial equity outcomes for low-income families, children, and seniors in historically disinvested communities. When completed, the healthy homes interventions in the 1,000 homes will transform the lives of 4,000 people, ensure 1,200 children avoid toxic lead exposure, increase safety for 800 older adults by reducing fall risk, and weatherize 750 homes to lower energy costs.

"Our homes are more than four walls and a roof – they provide security, warmth, a nurturing environment for families to grow in, and so much more. That's why ensuring Marylanders have access to safe, energy efficient, and affordable housing is so important. The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is making a positive impact on our communities by doing just that, and I fought to deliver this direct federal investment to support their continued work. With these funds, we're improving housing conditions for more families in Baltimore," said Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Appropriations Committee.

The \$750,000 will be aligned, braided, and coordinated with existing funds from Senator Van Hollen's 2022 Congressional earmark, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Maryland Department of Health, Amerigroup, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Energy Administration, Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, and O'Neill Foundation.

"For all our kids, a home should be a place of refuge, not a source of sickness. This new federal investment in the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative's efforts to eradicate the causes of housing-related

asthma, lead poisoning and other injuries will help make West Baltimore's kids safer and more successful over the long term," said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. "By improving living conditions in low-income communities of color, these federal investments also will work to eliminate the health and racial disparities that have challenged our city for far too long."

"My work on community project funding over the last year was a critical priority because real dollars were at stake for deserving local organizations," said Congressman Kweisi Mfume. "The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is one example of the great work being done by so many people every day in our District and I'm proud to be a part of their success."

"GHHI is proud to be recipients of these funds," said Ruth Ann Norton, GHHI's President and CEO. "They will continue to fuel our work to create far-reaching and lasting impact for families in Baltimore, ensuring greater access to safe, affordable, energy-efficient homes. They will also help us ensure equitable investments in our historically disinvested communities to improve health, economic and social outcomes "

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About the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health and the advancement of racial and health equity through the creation of healthy, safe, and energy efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors, and families to ensure better health, economic, and social outcomes for low-income communities of color. As the nation's leading healthy housing organization, GHHI provides evidence-based direct services, policy support, and technical assistance to partners across the country on innovative financing and integrated health, housing and energy models. www.ghhi.org.