



community development partnership

Promoting a vibrant and diverse community on Lower Cape Cod

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastham

What: Community Development Partnership Joins Delegation to Study Housing in Ireland

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Community Development Partnership Joins Delegation to Study Housing in Ireland

In mid-October Andrea Aldana, Director of Housing Advocacy for the Community Development Partnership in Eastham, traveled to Ireland with a delegation of housing advocates from across the state to participate in an “Affordable Housing Learning Journey.” The 20 participants included leaders of community development corporations, state housing agency officials, architects, private developers, and elected officials.

With the goal of studying Ireland’s approach to building affordable housing, the trip was organized by the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), NeighborWorks Southern Mass and Massachusetts Housing Partnership in partnership with the Irish Council for Social Housing. Funding from the Kuehn Foundation helped fund the trip for younger housing professionals such as Aldana. The delegation met with housing leaders, toured projects and neighborhoods, and attended the Irish Council for Social Housing Conference in Wexford.

The trip began with the Irish Council for Social Housing Conference where housing providers from across Ireland shared best practices and competed for national housing awards. Housing awards were given for family housing, low income housing, senior housing and housing for people with disabilities. Chrystal Kornegay, Executive Director of Mass Housing and former Under Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development was a presenter at the conference.

Connections between Ireland and Massachusetts run deep. “It was really interesting to learn that just like our own urban and rural housing crisis, it was created in large part as a result of

historical land use and housing policies,” says Aldana. She was also struck by the similarities between our housing challenges on Cape Cod and in Ireland. Both struggle with low wages that can’t sustain market rents, long waiting lists for subsidized housing units, an aging population and resistance to new housing development.

According to Aldana one major takeaway was how “climate change was embedded in all conversations related to housing” and that housing “is considered a human right in Ireland.” Other ideas that sparked interest included regionalized solutions, scattered housing, spot rent control and innovative approaches to senior living.

“I am really proud that Andrea’s leadership through her work on the CDP’s Housing Institute and the Community Housing Partnership, was recognized and that she was asked to join this distinguished group of Massachusetts housing advocates,” said Jay Coburn, CEO of the Community Development Partnership. “While the Lower and Outer Cape is unique, many of our housing challenges are not and this was a great opportunity to learn how other communities both in the Commonwealth and Ireland are rising to the affordable housing challenge.”

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Community Development Partnership supports an array of programs that strengthen our Lower Cape community, providing greater opportunities for all who live here to thrive.

Our work starts with creating affordable homes—so essential to a healthy economy, but a real challenge in communities like ours where seasonal and vacation dynamics drive the market beyond the reach of many who live and work locally all year round.

We also work to launch entrepreneurs and strengthen local businesses. We believe a vibrant future depends on sustaining traditional industries and inspiring new ones—especially when they’re based on renewable natural resources such as fishing and farming.

In all that we do, we aim to protect the natural environment around us through efforts that preserve the character and sustain the future of the Lower Cape.

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