

**Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 7, 2022

**Media Contact**

Jennifer Dekel

[Jennifer@Miller-Ink.com](mailto:Jennifer@Miller-Ink.com)

[310-571-8264](tel:310-571-8264) x1011



**LA's Newest Inclusive Housing Community Receives \$9 Million From California Legislature**

*The funds will accelerate the development of The Village, Cornerstone's first housing project, which aims to set a new standard for inclusive housing*

LOS ANGELES — [Cornerstone Housing for Adults With Disabilities](#) announced on Thursday that the California Legislature has allocated \$9 million in the California State Budget toward Cornerstone's development of The Village, a first-of-its kind apartment community that will empower residents who have intellectual and developmental differences (I/DD) to live active, independent and enriched lives.

Set to break ground this fall, The Village is Cornerstone's first community. Coupled with a wide range of physical amenities and accommodations, The Village will provide comprehensive support for its residents. ETTA, a leading service provider for adults with developmental differences and Cornerstone's sister-nonprofit, will extend their services for residents in the form of individualized support, social and educational programming, opportunities for vocational and recreation community involvement, and more.

"We're extremely grateful for the support we've received from our representatives and the State of California," said Executive Director Dr. Michael Held. "Along with the incredible generosity of our community of donors, these funds will help ensure that adults with developmental differences have a place to call home and a path to independence."

The financial support comes amid a wave of public support for The Village from community members and government officials concerned about Los Angeles' lack of housing options for neurodiverse adults. Senator Bob Herzberg (D-Van Nuys), the Senate Majority Leader Emeritus in the California State Senate, voiced his excitement for The Village as a fresh solution for California's housing crisis.

"I love innovative projects like this," Senator Hertzberg [told \*The Jewish Journal\*](#) last month. "Where else but California would policy leaders embrace a forward-thinking plan to help the developmentally disabled be near friends and family yet live independently? All at a cost they can afford, plus be near shopping and transportation. Talk about revolutionary."

California Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) has also been a crucial supporter of The Village. Bloom has a personal connection to ETTA, which was founded in 1993 by his parents, Aaron and Rickey Bloom.

In late May, Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles) submitted a request to the California Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee to include funds in the California State Budget to support the development of The Village. This request was supported by Senator Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), Assemblymember Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley), and Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles).

“The Village is the kind of inclusive, affordable, community-based housing we need more of in LA,” Senator Stern [told \*The Jewish Journal\*](#).

Cornerstone has raised \$24.3 million through its capital campaign, just shy of its \$26 million goal. Once completed, the \$55 million development will include 64 apartment units and eight units for low-income affordable housing, mindful-living amenities, engaging communal spaces, and ground-floor retail space that will bring vocational opportunity and add to the building’s robust energy.

“The Village will raise the bar for supportive housing within our local community and throughout the nation,” said Dr. Held. “Our inclusion in the California State Budget is yet another remarkable step toward a brighter future – one where people with developmental differences are valued and empowered to seek out opportunities in which they can grow and thrive.”

**About The Village:** The Village is an inclusive apartment community currently being developed by non-profit Cornerstone Housing for Adults with Disabilities in the heart of Los Angeles. The Village will bring together residents with developmental differences, neighbors, and businesses to make an inspired statement about the unique value of every person. To learn more, visit [www.TheCornerstoneVillage.org](http://www.TheCornerstoneVillage.org).

**About ETTA:** ETTA is a leading service provider to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Founded in 1993, ETTA provides a full spectrum of services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Los Angeles. To learn more, visit [www.ETTA.org](http://www.ETTA.org).

# # #