



ALBANY COUNTY
LAND BANK CORPORATION

PRESS RELEASE

Albany County Land Bank and Albany Community Land Trust Awarded National Scholarship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | April 12, 2017

Albany, New York - Albany has been selected as one of three 2017 scholarship recipients in the Center for Community Progress' national Technical Assistance Scholarship Program (TASP). Technical assistance delivered through the scholarship program will strengthen the partnership between the Albany County Land Bank and the Albany Community Land Trust.

Through TASP, the Center for Community Progress, a national nonprofit, helps communities break new ground in their efforts to address property vacancy, abandonment, and deterioration. The Center for Community Progress then shares best practices developed through TASP with its national audience. The other two 2017 scholarship recipients are Huntington, West Virginia, and Memphis, Tennessee.

"The Albany County Land Bank is proud to receive this technical assistance scholarship from the Center for Community Progress," said **Adam Zaranko, Executive Director of the Albany County Land Bank Corporation**. "We look forward to collaborating with national experts and our local partners to develop innovative approaches to reclaiming vacant properties and increasing affordable housing opportunities. With this assistance we hope to develop and implement ideas that will help communities across Albany County as well as those facing similar challenges throughout New York State and the nation."

Land banks and community land trusts are each critical tools in the work to address vacancy and abandonment, but around the country, their efforts have rarely intersected, explains the Center for Community Progress. The partnership between the Albany County Land Bank and the Albany Community Land Trust will demonstrate how, by working together on tangible projects, land banks and community land trusts can strengthen each other's efforts in support of improved community outcomes.

"The Albany Community Land Trust looks forward to strengthening our partnership with the Albany County Land Bank to rebuild our neighborhoods, said **Valerie Roberts, President of the Albany Community Land Trust Board**. "The technical assistance from the Center for Community Progress will help ensure that we redevelop communities without displacing current residents."





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Through TASP, recipient communities will receive up to 400 hours of assistance from a team of national experts over eight months between April and November 2017. Assistance may include a diagnosis of the most pressing problems, evaluation of current systems and strategies, and recommendations on solutions that involve key government decision-makers, residents, and other stakeholders.

“Albany, Huntington, and Memphis have each demonstrated a commitment to strengthening their revitalization work to benefit local residents,” said **Tamar Shapiro, President and CEO of the Center for Community Progress**. “We are excited to work in each of these places to pioneer strategies that will not only help these communities, but also other places that will learn from these efforts.”

“Addressing blight is one of the most impactful ways to improve neighborhoods and local economies,” said **Janis Bowdler, Head of Community Development at JPMorgan Chase**. “By arming city leadership with technical assistance through the Center for Community Progress, we are giving them the tools they need to drive inclusive economic growth in a highly tactical and productive way.”

“Communities across New York continue to face the fallout of the housing crisis. We’re committed to helping them recover and thrive,” said **New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman**. “I’m proud to partner with organizations like the Albany County Land Bank to build on our work rehabilitating abandoned properties – breathing new life into our neighborhoods, and creating safe and stable environments for families and future generations of New Yorkers. Congratulations to the Albany County Land Bank on receiving this well-deserved honor.”

“This honor from the Center for Community Progress highlights the good work done by the Land Bank and its progress toward renewing our community,” said **Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy**. “It also confirms that our investment in the Land Bank is bringing returns for potential home buyers and the taxpayers.”

“Rebuilding neighborhoods one property at a time is hard work, but that’s what the Albany County Land Bank is doing with help from New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and the Albany County Legislature,” said **Majority Leader Frank Commisso of the Albany County Legislature**. “We’re thrilled the Land Bank won a prestigious national award, and we thank the Center for Community Progress for recognizing our work.”

Albany and the other recipients were chosen through a competitive process, which included a written application round followed by an in-person site assessment for five finalists. Proposed projects are reviewed on a range of criteria, including the potential for innovation from which other cities can learn, demonstrated leadership to implement reform, overall scale of vacancy challenges, and need for outside assistance. Grant funding from JPMorgan Chase provides the program’s support.



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About the Albany County Land Bank Corporation

The Albany County Land Bank was established in early 2014 by Albany County to facilitate the process of acquiring, improving and redistributing vacant and abandoned properties. The Land Bank is a nonprofit organization committed to improving neighborhoods and has a responsibility to improve Land Bank properties and return them to productive use. The Albany County Land Bank uses grant funding from New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Albany County and the City of Albany to support property demolitions, acquisitions, stabilizations, lot improvements and renovation projects. To learn more about the Albany County Land Bank please visit: www.albanycountylandbank.org.

About the Albany Community Land Trust

The Albany Community Land Trust (ACLТ) is a community-based nonprofit organization committed to rebuilding neighborhood housing stock and creating high quality permanently affordable housing in the City of Albany. Since 1987, ACLТ has renovated 67 properties with 91 units and is currently managing 45 units of affordable rental housing.

About the Center for Community Progress

Founded in 2010, the Center for Community Progress is the only national nonprofit organization solely dedicated to building a future in which entrenched property vacancy, abandonment, and deterioration no longer exist in American communities. Community Progress serves as the leading resource for local, state and federal policies and best practices that address the full cycle of property revitalization, from prevention, through the acquisition and maintenance of problem properties, to their productive reuse. More information is available at www.communityprogress.net.

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