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Avesta Housing names Jennifer Hawkins as new President & CEO

Seasoned affordable housing leader brings visionary expertise, strategic leadership to role

Portland, Maine — Avesta Housing, Northern New England's largest nonprofit affordable housing provider, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jennifer Hawkins** as the organization's new **President & Chief Executive Officer**.

Hawkins brings more than 20 years of visionary leadership and deep expertise in affordable housing, community development, and health equity. She most recently served as President & CEO of One Neighborhood Builders in Providence, R.I., where she led transformative growth, pioneered innovative housing developments and aligned housing policy with health and economic outcomes. Her tenure was also marked by the successful cultivation of high-impact philanthropic partnerships.

"Jennifer's leadership is defined by innovation, strategic vision, and a powerful dedication to meeting community needs through affordable housing and housing stability programs," said **Renee Fay-LeBlanc**, Chair of the Avesta Housing Board of Directors. "The Avesta Board is confident that she will guide Avesta into its next chapter with clarity, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to the communities we serve."

"Jennifer's appointment comes at a critical time for the housing and community development field. Her proven record of mission-driven growth and commitment to inclusive, community-centered development makes her uniquely qualified to lead Avesta and deepen its impact."

"I am deeply honored to join Avesta Housing and to partner with the talented team, dedicated board, and vibrant communities that make this organization so exceptional," said Hawkins. "Avesta is a highly respected affordable housing powerhouse. I'm eager to build upon its incredible track record and lead the organization to realize new heights because everyone deserves a place to call home."

Hawkins holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College, a Master of Public Administration degree from New York University and executive leadership certificates from the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School.

For more information, visit www.avestahousing.org.

PHOTO: Jennifer Hawkins

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About Avesta Housing

Avesta Housing is a nonprofit affordable housing provider with more than 50 years of experience as a leader in affordable housing development and property management in Maine and New Hampshire. The organization is headquartered in Portland, Maine, and operates 100 affordable properties, more than 3,000 apartments and two assisted living facilities, providing safe, affordable homes for more than 4,000 people every day. An additional 1,100 new homes are in the development pipeline. Avesta has been named a Best Place to Work in Maine in 2024. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. www.AvestaHousing.org

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