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## **AVESTA HOUSING PRESENTS MISSION CHAMPION AWARD TO SOUTHERN MAINE AGENCY ON AGING**

PORTLAND, Maine — Avesta Housing, the largest nonprofit affordable housing provider in northern New England, has presented its Mission Champion Award to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) for its longtime commitment to provide support and services to older adults living in affordable homes in Maine.

Avesta's Mission Champion Award is presented annually to an individual or organization who has made significant contributions to the promotion and provision of affordable housing. Avesta presented the award to SMAA on Sept. 16 during its "Celebration of Home" event at Allagash Brewing Company in Portland.

A nonprofit organization, SMAA has been the leading resource for services and information empowering older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers in Cumberland and York counties for more than 50 years. Its impact can be felt across the Avesta Housing property portfolio in Maine.

"Avesta Housing was founded in 1972 and Southern Maine Agency on Aging was founded the following year, so we have been kindred spirits with shared values and goals almost from the beginning," said Avesta Housing President & CEO Jennifer Hawkins. "SMAA's impactful collaboration with Avesta – notably in providing wellness and nutrition programs, caregiver support, and housing stability services tailored to older Mainers – reflects Avesta's core belief that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home."

"Housing security and affordability is a top issue for older adults today, and it will only become more magnified as time goes on," said Southern Maine Agency on Aging CEO Megan Walton. "We need partners like Avesta Housing to help us find solutions to the current housing shortage and ensure that older Mainers have their basic needs met."

**PHOTO:** Avesta Housing presents its Mission Champion Award to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging on Sept. 16 at Allagash Brewing Company in Portland, Maine. L-R: Avesta Housing President & CEO Jennifer Hawkins, Southern Maine Agency on Aging CEO Megan Walton, and Avesta Housing Board of Directors Chair Dr. Renee Fay-LeBlanc (Avesta Housing photo)

## **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 & 2025. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need.*

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