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### **Wartburg Receives Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Award**

(Mount Vernon, NY) Governor Kathy Hochul announced conditional awards totaling \$30 million in supportive housing funding to serve older adults, survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, veterans and chronically homeless families, and individuals with a mental illness or substance use disorder. Administered by the State Office of Mental Health, the eighth round of funding through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative resulted in 122 awards, which will provide conditional funding for services and operating expenses for up to 4,839 units of supportive housing. **Wartburg was one of the agencies selected to receive a conditional award.**

“Supportive housing plays a critical role in our efforts to strengthen New York’s mental health care system and ensure all New Yorkers can live successfully within their community,” **Governor Hochul said.** “The Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative provides the funding needed to provide the services vulnerable populations can rely on to live safely in independent settings.” Since its inception, the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative has provided operating funding for more than 8,400 units serving vulnerable populations.

Funding may be used for rental assistance and services to eligible target populations to ensure their housing stability. Permissible uses include rental subsidies and other occupancy costs; services or staff to identify and locate eligible individuals that need housing; primary and behavioral health services; employment and vocational training; educational assistance, parenting skills development and support; child care assistance counseling and crisis intervention; children’s services, including educational advocacy, support and counseling; and costs associated with services that help individuals and families remain stably housed.

The initiative complements Governor Hochul’s landmark \$1 billion multi-year plan to strengthen the state’s mental healthcare system and drastically reduce the number of individuals with unmet mental health needs throughout the state. Adopted as part of the FY 2024 budget, the plan also includes funding for 3,500 new residential units for New Yorkers struggling with mental illness, dramatically expands outpatient services, and closes gaps in insurance coverage for behavioral health services, prohibiting carriers from denying access to medically necessary, high-need, acute and crisis mental health services for both adults and children.

**Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said,** “Governor Hochul has long been an advocate for supportive housing and understands the need to establish more capacity throughout the state. Her commitment has helped thousands of individuals and families to receive the services they need while living in their own homes. Safe and dignified housing will



give people living with mental illness and substance use, our veterans and many others dealing with critical life issues the stability and support they need for a successful recovery.”

**Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said,** “Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative and this annual investment is making a difference in the lives and future health outcomes of our most vulnerable New Yorkers, including veterans, domestic violence survivors and those with serious mental illness or substance use disorders. Having a safe and affordable place to live has a positive impact on one’s overall health.”

**Division of Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said,** “Today’s life-changing awards will provide the safety and stability of a home to thousands of New Yorkers and ensure access to tailored supportive services that will enable these individuals to thrive in their communities. These deserving grantees are exceptional partners in delivering affordable homes and care to people in need. Thank you to Governor Hochul for her continued commitment to addressing the mental health crisis and creating opportunities for vulnerable populations across the State.”

**Wartburg President Dr. David Gentner said,** “It was a pleasure working with Rockabill Advisors on this application and I am looking forward to the next steps of the development of more affordable housing for seniors on our campus. My thanks to Governor Hochul for her commitment to the population we serve.”

Rockabill was the financial consultant for Wartburg’s Friedrichs Residence – which opened in February 2013. Friedrichs was the first supportive senior housing new construction project for Wartburg. Comprised of 56,000 square feet, the site includes 61 affordable housing units. The Friedrichs Residence includes a multi-purpose community room, a library, laundry and fitness facilities, as well as on-site parking and was the first LEED certified multi-family new construction in the city of Mount Vernon.

## **About Wartburg**

Wartburg, located in Westchester County, NY, offers integrated, comprehensive senior residential and healthcare services. Unlike conventional retirement communities, Wartburg provides a wide range of services to both residents living on their beautiful 34-acre campus and people in their own homes. From independent, assisted living and award-winning nursing home care to inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation, and adult day care services, their continuing care approach has earned them a trusted reputation. Wartburg also provides caregiver support at every stage with an array of options to find the level of care that considers the whole family. Wartburg was named one of the “Best Nursing Homes in New York State” by *U.S. News & World Report* for the twelfth consecutive year in 2022.



Friedrichs Residence, photo from OCV Architects