The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless is excited to announce that it has been awarded $900,000 in capital funding for the Veterans Community Resource Center in Amityville! This funding was made possible by Majority Leader Charles Schumer, through an allocation as part of the Congressionally Directed Spending budget.

“One homeless vet is one too many, and I am proud I fought hard and secured $900,000 for the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless (LICH) to improve their Veterans Community Resource Center. The funding will make much-needed infrastructure improvements to the Amityville facility so that LICH their many partner organizations can continue helping our veterans, seniors, and so many others each day in a safe, secure environment,” said Senator Chuck Schumer.

The Community Resource Center provides critical housing and services for veterans, seniors, children and adults with disabilities and homeless and at-risk Long Islanders. It serves as a one-stop for Long Islanders in need to access a multitude of services, all in one place. Staff of the nine non-profits in the building work together to serve mutual clients in a centralized location, working collaboratively and reducing the amount of time clients have to travel to multiple appointments. The Community Resource Center also offers space to residents of Amityville, where they can hold community meetings and trainings. The Center has a distribution center of essential items that is open to the community, and hosts four mobile pantry days for the community, so they can access fresh, healthy food.

“We are so grateful to Senator Schumer for his ongoing support of the Coalition and the Community Resource Center. Thanks to the Senator’s help, we will be able to complete the work needed to continue operating our essential services for Long Islanders in need,” said Charles Russo, LICH Board Chair.

Ralph Fasano, Executive Director of Concern Housing and Board member of LICH, said “Senator Schumer came through to expedite Concern’s application for Liberty Village, clearing the way for the development of 60 units of permanent affordable housing for Veterans. We are thankful that today, he is again helping those veterans and others, by supporting the restoration of the Amityville Veterans Community Resource Center. “

The Veterans Community Garden, located at the Center, is also available to members of the community. Lastly, the Center has been a hub for health-related resources in the community, including hosting COVID-19 Vaccination events for the community. The Center, with a bus stop directly in front of its property and adjacent to two housing developments (including Liberty Village Veterans residence), is easily accessible to low-income individuals and those who use public transportation.

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Partners in the Amityville Community Resource Center (CRC):

Long Island Coalition for the Homeless

Concern for Independent Living

United Veterans Beacon House

Services for the Underserved

Options for Community Living

Family Service League

EOC of Suffolk County

Urban League of Westchester County – Long Island Division

Kids Need More

Each shared their gratitude for the Majority Leader’s support for this important project:

Frank Amalfitano CEO/President of United Veterans Beacon House and his dedicated staff would like to thank Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressionally Designated Spending grant for providing the funds to repair the Veterans Community Resource Center in Amityville. United Veterans Beacon House provides case management services to our nation’s homeless veterans in permanent and transitional supportive housing at the Veterans Community Resource Center.

“We are thankful to have Senator Schumer’s support so that this important work can continue. S:US is committed to swiftly helping veterans; we’re often able to enroll them into the SSVF program the same day we meet them. The Community Resource Center allows us to collaborate with many other non-profits to better serve veterans and find solutions to any hardships they may be facing,” said Gabrielle Fasano, Regional Director with Services for the UnderServed.

“We are grateful to Senator Schumer for recognizing the important work of LICH and backing up that recognition with vital funding,” said Yolanda Robano-Gross, Chief Executive Officer, Options for Community Living, Inc.

“Deepest appreciation to Senator Schumer for again recognizing the importance of helping veterans by supporting the restoration of the Amityville Veterans Community Resource Center,” stated Karen Boorshtein, FSL President & CEO.

“Thank you so much to Senator Schumer for helping our community member who at times feel forgotten and giving them a much-needed updated space” Robert O’Donnell, assistant to the CEO for Supportive Servicers.

“We will be able to offer 'even more' useful services to our veterans & seniors with the upgrade to the LICH building" stated Jeffrey Johnson, Program Director of the USJP/SCSEP, Urban League of Westchester/Long Island office.

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Melissa Firmes, LMSW, the Founder and Executive Director of KiDS NEED MoRE, said, “This generous support will assist us in providing safe experiences for traumatized families to grow and heal. The Veteran’s Community Resource Center is truly a village for our children and the culture of collaboration within the center enhances the impact of our services”.

Greta Guarton, Executive Director of Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, said “Many thanks to Senator Schumer for his help in making the Amityville Community Resource Center a reality. With this help, we look forward to serving over 1200 visitors to our center each month.”

The 40,000 sq. ft. building, which was built in 1985, is in serious need of repairs and upgrades. The much-needed funds will allow for refacing and sealing of the exterior brick façade and parapets; replacement of an old and inefficient HVAC system to one that can support MERV 13 filters to protect against COVID; installation of new, energy-efficient windows; installation of automatic doors, toilets, faucets, water fountains and other fixtures for both handicap accessibility and to limit touching and contamination of surfaces.

For more information about the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Community Resource Center or the Congressionally Designated Spending award, please feel free to contact Greta Guarton at gguarton@addressthehomeless.org