



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 26, 2025 - HAND INC. RECEIVES \$55,000 IN FUNDS FROM MERCHANTS BANK FOR HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST THROUGH NEW GRANT PROGRAM

Noblesville, IN – June 26, 2025 - HAND Inc. has been awarded a \$55,000 grant from Merchants Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (FHLBank Indianapolis) to launch the Hamilton County Community Land Trust (HCCLT), a new nonprofit initiative that will preserve long-term housing affordability in Hamilton County. The grant was awarded through FHLBank Indianapolis' new Community Multiplier – Member Match program.

The concept for the land trust originated from the work of the Hamilton County Housing Collaborative, a partnership of local organizations, civic leaders, businesses, and housing advocates working together to address the county's growing housing challenges. After identifying a community land trust as one of the collaborative's top priorities, HAND has taken the lead role in advancing the initiative into full implementation.

"This work started with a shared commitment across many sectors to find creative solutions to keep housing attainable in Hamilton County," said Andrea Davis, Executive Director of HAND. "This investment allows us to move from planning into action. The Community Land Trust will be a long-term tool to help local families build stability and access homeownership in an increasingly competitive housing market."

The grant funding will support the legal formation of the land trust, governance development, program design, partnerships with real estate and lending professionals, community outreach, and the creation of homebuyer assistance programs that will allow qualified households to access affordable homeownership while preserving affordability for future generations.

To further engage the community and share insights on this effort, HAND will host a free public webinar, *"Preserving Housing Affordability: The Hamilton County Community Land Trust,"* on **Wednesday, July 16 at 10:00 a.m.** The event will feature local leaders and



project partners discussing how the land trust works, the challenges it addresses, and how others can get involved. More details and registration information will be announced soon.

The Community Multiplier – Member Match program is FHLBank Indianapolis’ newest program offering, designed to support targeted affordable housing initiatives that fall outside of FHLBank Indianapolis’ other grant programs. Community Multiplier offers grants between \$25,000 and \$125,000 for non-profit organizations headquartered in Indiana or Michigan who partner with an FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institution on targeted affordable housing initiatives. With a 10% matching funds commitment from the member financial institution, FHLBank Indianapolis is providing grants between \$25,000 and \$125,000. The program opened March 27, 2025, with a \$5 million allocation and is available until October 1, 2025, or until funds are exhausted.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis: Building Partnerships. Serving Communities. FHLBank Indianapolis is a regional bank included in the Federal Home Loan Bank System. FHLBanks are government-sponsored enterprises created by Congress to ensure access to low-cost funding for their member financial institutions, with particular attention paid to providing solutions that support the housing and small business needs of members' customers. FHLBanks are privately capitalized and funded and receive no Congressional appropriations. FHLBank Indianapolis is owned by its Indiana and Michigan financial institution members, including commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, savings institutions and community development financial institutions. For more information about FHLBank Indianapolis, visit www.fhlbi.com and follow the Bank on LinkedIn and X (formerly known as Twitter) at @FHLBankIndy.

About HAND: Established in 2003, HAND is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality affordable housing options and advocating for housing diversity in Indianapolis’ northern suburbs. HAND owns and manages affordable rental properties in Hamilton, Boone, and Tipton counties, offering homes where residents can thrive.

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