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Proving the need for more housing, more than 400 apply for 12 new affordable apartments in Haverhill



More than 400 people applied for 12 new apartment units at the new Winter Street School Apartments in Haverhill, showing that the demand for affordable apartments exceeds supply.

Developed by the Archdiocese of Boston's [Planning Office for Urban Affairs](#), the new housing was created in the former Winter Street School that dated back to the late 1800s.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Mayor James Fiorentini, Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary for [Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD), and MassHousing Executive Director Tom Gleason participated in a recent ribbon-cutting event to commemorate the occupancy by residents. MassHousing contributed \$600,000 in financing from the [Affordable Housing Trust Fund](#).

"The Archdiocese of Boston, through the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, is pleased to have partnered with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the city of Haverhill on this important affordable housing development that will benefit many people in need," said Cardinal O'Malley.

All 12 apartments are occupied by low-income residents who were among more than 400 people who applied to live there. Located on Winter Street, the new housing is within walking distance to a commuter rail station.

"This wonderful new project is a creative re-use of this old school building, the former Winter Street School," said Mayor Fiorentini. "We

are thrilled that this old school building, which served the Lower Acre community for so many years, will be serving the community again, this time as low-income housing. Low-income housing is a critical need in that area. We were pleased to work with Planning Office for Urban Affairs to help meet that need."



The property will be listed on the National Register for Historic Places for its contribution to educating Haverhill's workforce. The old elementary school was built after the Civil War and thousands of Haverhill residents attended school there until it closed in the mid-1970s.

"Projects such as the Winter Street School redevelopment, that offer affordable and stable housing, are an important component to strengthening families and the community," said Kornegay. "I look forward to our continued partnerships with municipalities, neighborhoods, communities and engaged citizens as we work on similar projects to improve housing access in Massachusetts."

MassHousing's Gleason noted that having more than 400 people apply for 12 apartments was "sobering," but added that efforts to create affordable housing "are happening all over the state. We do this work one building at a time, one apartment at a time and more importantly, one family at a time. We want to invest wherever people want to create affordable housing."

The development also received funding from DHCD, the [North Shore HOME Consortium](#), the city of Haverhill, Bank of America, [HUD](#), the [Massachusetts Historical Commission](#) and the [National Park Service](#).

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