

Respected Non-profit Senior Service Provider West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing to Embark on Revitalization and Re-envisioning of its West 74th Street Residence

In operation for over 35 years, the West 74th Street Residence needs an update to meet the needs of New York's seniors; comprehensive upgrades will include new public spaces, increased accessibility, and improved HVAC and building systems.

Part of WSFSSH's broader effort to rethink adult home model, ensuring seniors have access to secure housing and quality supportive services.

New York, NY -- The West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH), a longtime, highly-respected provider of senior housing and social services on the Upper West Side, will embark on a complete revitalization and re-envisioning of its West 74th Street adult home, its leadership announced today.

Licensed by NYS Department of Health and primarily funded by the NY State Supplement Program (SSP), the adult care facility-- which serves middle- and low-income seniors, including previously homeless individuals, is in need of major capital investment. WSFSSH is planning a comprehensive remodeling of the site.

The facility's bedrooms, bathrooms and hallways must be expanded to meet current accessibility guidelines and for the comfort of its residents. Initially opened in 1985, it is also in need of significant upgrades to its mechanical systems.

Operational costs have risen significantly. Programs like around-the-clock personal care and comprehensive social services, and even a simple full meal program, have gotten increasingly costly.

As a non-profit organization, WSFSSH will solve these financial and capital challenges by comprehensively investing in the facility's capital needs and converting it to a residence still serving low-income seniors. The renovation and future operations will be supported by the mix of public and private funding sources WSFSSH uses in its other senior residences.

“It is our obligation as a society to care for the aging; the staff at West 74th Street has done truly exceptional work under the circumstances, not only keeping our residents safe and healthy during the COVID crisis, but nurturing them socially and emotionally as well,” said **Paul Freitag, Executive Director of the West Side Federation of Senior and Supportive Housing**. “But today, we face a two-fold reality: the physical facility is outdated and not providing a modern living experience for its residents, while at the same time becoming increasingly expensive to operate under existing programs. We are proud of this solution, which will ultimately provide a better living experience at West 74th Street while converting the facility to a more financially sustainable model that we have seen work in our other residences.”

Once the renovation is complete, the renewed 74th Street Residence will welcome home vulnerable, low-income seniors as it has for over 35 years. Comprehensive services attending to the health and social needs of the residents will compliment the newly-renovated space to create a home where seniors can age with dignity within the vibrant Upper West Side community..

During the revitalization process, many residents will likely be relocated to other WSFSSH residences; those who either do not meet thresholds for those residences or choose not to relocate to the ones available to them will work with WSFSSH staff to find a suitable, safe and cost-effective alternative. Those who wish to relocate back to West 74th Street upon completion of work -- and who also qualify given new funding streams-- will be prioritized to do so.

Advocates and elected officials voiced their support for WSFSSH’s plan:

“For decades, WSFSSH has been an anchor of stability for vulnerable seniors on the Upper West Side. When the West 74th street residence reopens, I know it will not only provide an ideal place for its staff to do their best work, but better meet the needs of its residents,” said **Gale Brewer, City Councilmember, District 6**. “I thank all the staff at WSFSSH for doing heroic work throughout the pandemic to keep seniors safe and healthy, and congratulate the organization for doing the right thing for our neighborhood’s elder residents.”

“WSFSSH has always been an innovator when it comes to serving frail older adults with complex needs” said **James Clyne, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York**. “Staying true to their mission, this unique nonprofit organization is always evolving to provide the safe, affordable options for seniors to maintain their independence for as long as possible. We look forward to this next chapter, not just for the WSFSSH staff and the seniors that will live there, but also to serve as a model for how best to provide these services.”

“Private retirement homes can cost well over \$10,000 per month in New York, which is why it is so important that we have a robust network of options available to ensure lower-income seniors can also age safely and affordably in their community. Critical to reaching this goal is supporting providers as they work to support older adults, while finding ways to make providing these services financially viable,” said **Allison Nickerson, Executive Director of**

LiveOn NY. "We are grateful to WSFSSH for creatively addressing two challenges at once, and bringing online a top-tier, state of the art facility for New York's older adults. We look forward to opening day."

"WSFSSH was founded out of a desire to create respectful housing for the homeless elderly on the Upper West Side; that compassion led to the invention of supportive housing as we know it today," said **Maclain Berhaupt, Interim Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York.** "As a result of our more than thirty years together, we have the utmost confidence in WSFSSH's ability to ensure the best possible outcome for the very-most vulnerable tenants who live at the West 74th Street residence and to create a safe, modern space for New Yorkers to age in place with dignity. It is what they do best."

For More Information Call 212-721-6032 Ext. 1001 or email info@wsfssh.org