

Virginia Supportive Housing and Better Housing Coalition Halt Merger Plans

RICHMOND, Va. (September 7, 2022) — This week, the boards of directors for Richmond, Virginia-based housing nonprofits Better Housing Coalition (BHC) and Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) voted separately to dissolve a merger agreement they initiated in December 2021. Since that time, staff of both organizations began work to integrate staff and systems, and create a legal structure for the new combined organization going forward.

During the restructuring process, it became clear that the creation of a new entity could put at risk some federal funding streams on which both legacy organizations have long relied. This funding helps underwrite the growth of real estate development, resident programs, and operations for both BHC and VSH.

A [joint statement](#) from BHC and VSH noted, “With no guarantees of this funding going forward, the sustainability of the new entity would be at risk, as could the wellbeing of our respective assets, residents, and 34-year legacies. Weighing all factors, the boards of both BHC and VSH agreed to amicably dissolve the merger agreement in September.

“Many new relationships were formed during the due diligence process, and valuable lessons learned. As we move forward separately, we will continue to look for ways to work together to enrich our region, and provide safe, affordable homes to the ever-growing number of individuals, families and seniors in need of our services.”

Both BHC and VSH were founded in 1988 and have a strong history of carrying out their mission-based work. Each of the organizations will continue to operate independently.

About Virginia Supportive Housing

VSH is the oldest provider of permanent supportive housing in Virginia. VSH provides permanent housing and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness, with a current portfolio of 17 rental communities and five scattered site housing programs serving more than 1,600 individuals and families in the Richmond, Charlottesville, and Hampton Roads regions. Learn more at www.virginiasupportivehousing.org.

About the Better Housing Coalition

BHC is the Richmond region's largest nonprofit community development corporation. BHC delivers quality, affordable apartment homes and social support services to more than 2,700 low-to-moderate-income families and senior residents living in 1,500 units across 17 rental communities. BHC has also built and sold more than 250 single-family homes to first-time homebuyers to encourage family wealth. Learn more at www.betterhousingcoalition.org.

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