



PRESS RELEASE

Bank of America Names Partnership for Strong Communities and Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters 2021 Hartford Neighborhood Builders®

Program Provides \$200,000 in Flexible Funding to Each Organization and Leadership Development Training to Advance Economic Mobility in the Greater Hartford Region

Hartford, CT – Programs that help address the Hartford region’s issues around equitable housing and opportunities for youth will be able to scale, helping even more people through a multi-year grant from Bank of America. Partnership for Stronger Communities (PSC) and Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters (NBBBS) have been named as the 2021 Bank of America [Neighborhood Builders®](#) awardees for their work in the Hartford community addressing these issues.

As a Neighborhood Builder, each organization receives a \$200,000 grant over two years, comprehensive leadership training for the executive director and an emerging leader on topics ranging from increasing financial sustainability, human capital management and strategic storytelling, joins a network of peer organizations across the U.S., and gets the opportunity to access capital to expand their impact. The program continues to be the nation’s largest investment into nonprofit leadership development.

“Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builders program is an innovative opportunity that provides immediate funding and guides nonprofit leaders with long-term support through educational and leadership training,” said Joseph Gianni, president, Bank of America of Greater Hartford. “Partnership for Strong Communities and Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters share missions that

demonstrate a deep commitment to making Connecticut a more resilient and equitable place to live. We congratulate them and look forward to seeing how they will make even greater strides toward social progress in the Greater Hartford region as this year's Neighborhood Builders."

Partnership for Strong Communities leads advocacy, advances original research, and brings together the coalitions needed to drive systemic change toward our shared vision. Partnership is dedicated to ensuring everyone in Connecticut has a safe, stable home that is affordable to them in an equitable community of their choice where they can thrive. A home is the foundation for strong neighborhoods, economic opportunity, healthy people, and educational success. The Neighborhood Builders funding will help the Partnership bolster staff to help strengthen their ability to deliver on their mission as well as provide leadership and management development support for their entire staff.

"At Partnership for Strong Communities, providing professional development training and support to our staff is imperative to driving our goal to expand housing opportunity to everyone in Connecticut," said Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director, Partnership for Strong Communities. "We are thrilled to be a recipient of this year's Neighborhood Builders award and appreciate their commitment to our mission and organization."

As one of Connecticut's premier youth mentoring organizations, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters (NBBBS) changes children's lives by providing professionally-supported mentoring and guidance tailored to their individual needs. At the onset of the coronavirus, NBBBS had to quickly implement a new virtual mentoring program to keep children connected with consistent support, which delayed the rollout of their new workforce development program, Big Futures. Now that developing Big Futures is at the forefront of their agenda, NBBBS plans to use their Neighborhood Builders funding to hire more staff to help develop workshops on higher education, job training, and attaining livable wages.

"The young people we serve face challenges, and through mentoring, we help transform adverse circumstances into opportunities for growth and resiliency," said Andy Fleischmann, President and CEO, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters. "We had to put the Big Futures program on hold due to the pandemic, but as one of this year's Neighborhood Builders recipients, we can now expand the program and help young people navigate higher education and careers."

Since 2004, Bank of America has invested over \$280 million in 50 communities through Neighborhood Builders, partnering with more than 1,400 nonprofits and helping more than 2,800 nonprofit leaders strengthen their leadership skills. In Greater Hartford, 27 nonprofits have been selected as Neighborhood Builders, and to date, the bank has invested \$5.4M in these local organizations.

The invitation-only program is highly competitive, and leading members of the community participated in a collaborative selection process to identify this year's awardees. Neighborhood Builders is just one example of how Bank of America deploys capital in communities, builds

cross-sector partnerships, and promotes socioeconomic progress as part of its approach to responsible growth.

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At Bank of America, we're guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection. We're delivering on this through responsible growth with a focus on our environmental, social and governance (ESG) leadership. ESG is embedded across our eight lines of business and reflects how we help fuel the global economy, build trust and credibility, and represent a company that people want to work for, invest in and do business with. It's demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our clients, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocacy groups, such as community, consumer and environmental organizations, to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at about.bankofamerica.com, and connect with us on Twitter ([@BofA_News](https://twitter.com/BofA_News)).

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