



**CAMDEN COMMUNITY
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PRESS RELEASE

CAMDEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP RELAUNCHES SUCCESSFUL CAMDEN HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP)

CHIP To Assist Approximately 150 Camden Residents Make Vital Home Improvement Repairs

CAMDEN – Camden Community Partnership (CCP) is excited to announce the relaunch of the Camden Home Improvement Program (CHIP), a crucial initiative designed to help local homeowners address critical repair needs and improve the quality of life in Camden’s neighborhoods. Originally launched in 2010 as a collaborative effort between the CCP, local organizations, religious leaders, and the city, CHIP has played an instrumental role in revitalizing the city’s housing stock.

“CHIP has been a game-changer for Camden, and we are thrilled to bring this program back for 2025,” Mayor Victor Carstarphen said. “Our city faces unique challenges in maintaining and improving our housing, and CHIP provides a much-needed solution to help homeowners tackle essential repairs. This new funding ensures that we can continue to stabilize our neighborhoods, improve safety, and promote energy efficiency for residents.”

In cities with aging housing stock, such as Camden, maintaining homes and preventing disrepair can be costly and challenging for residents, especially when combined with environmental issues like outdated infrastructure and collapsing underground systems. Homeowners in urban cities often spend more on structural repairs, safety upgrades, and energy efficiency improvements than their suburban counterparts, placing an additional financial burden on families and neighborhoods.

“We at Camden Community Partnership are deeply proud to continue providing programs like CHIP,” said CCP Board Co-Chair and New Jersey American Water President Mark McDonough. “We believe in Camden’s resurgence, and most importantly, we believe in lifting up our residents and helping them build a brighter future. Camden is a community full of strength and potential, and programs like this help to provide the support our homeowners need to create safer, healthier homes. We remain committed to being a part of Camden’s transformation and ensuring that all our residents have the opportunity to thrive.”

Recognizing these challenges, CHIP was originally launched to address the pressing need for home repairs in Camden, where outdated and deteriorating homes put residents at risk. Over the course of eight years, CHIP successfully attracted public and private funding, allowing over 460 homes to be rebuilt and stabilized. Due to the program’s resounding success, CCP secured \$5 million in funding to relaunch the program in 2024, allowing approximately 150 homeowners to access up to \$25,000 in forgivable loans for critical home repairs. Funding for CHIP was made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The new iteration of CHIP will support qualified Camden homeowners with repairs including, but not limited to, structural upgrades, life safety improvements, code compliance, and energy-efficient modifications. CCP will serve as the sole fiscal agent and provide project management to ensure that funds are used effectively and that as much of the work as possible is sourced locally, benefiting Camden's economy. Applications will be made available on June 2, 2025.

“Too many families are forced to put off essential home repairs because the cost is simply out of reach,” said Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald. “Through CHIP, we’re making sure homeowners can afford the critical repairs they need to stay safe in their homes and protect their most important asset. It’s an investment in our neighborhoods, in Camden’s housing stock, and in the long-term success of the families who call this city home.”

As part of this commitment, CCP is also proud to partner with Saint Joseph’s Carpenter Society (SJCS) who will provide lead inspection and abatement services to Camden homeowners. This partnership enhances the program’s ability to address environmental health hazards, ensuring safer living conditions for families. SJCS’s collaboration with CCP—along with other vital community organizations such as Parkside Business and Community in Partnership, Heart of Camden, and Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc.—demonstrates the strong, unified effort among local nonprofits to improve the quality of life for Camden’s residents through safe, stable, and healthy housing.

“Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society is excited to work with Camden Community Partnership to see more opportunities for Camden's families to protect their homes and their families,” said Pilar Hogan Closkey, Executive Director of the Saint Joseph’s Carpenter Society. “By leveraging this repair program with lead remediation services, families can have greater confidence that their homes are safe and healthy, giving a brighter future for Camden's kids.”

“I can’t express how much this means to me,” said Indya Walker, a Camden homeowner benefiting from this new round of CHIP funding. “My home has needed repairs for years, but the cost has always been out of reach. This opportunity is truly a blessing. It’s not just about fixing my house—it’s about creating a safe, comfortable space for my mother and me. CHIP is helping lift a weight that’s been on my shoulders for so long. I’m incredibly grateful for this program.”

To further explain the program and answer any questions residents may have, CCP will host four community meetings in each of Camden’s four wards. These meetings will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about CHIP, ask questions, and receive guidance on how to apply. The informational community meetings will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks. CCP is also creating a website (accessible in both English and Spanish) where residents can find details about the program. For more information about CHIP, visit www.chipccp.com, call 855-599-5155, or email chip@camdenpcinc.com.

About Camden Community Partnership:

Camden Community Partnership is facilitating the revival of the City of Camden by creating an environment where people choose to live, work, and invest. CCP develops visionary, long-range plans for the redevelopment of Camden’s waterfront and neighborhoods and works with private sector, government, and community partners to make these plans a reality. For more information, please visit www.camdencommunitypartnership.com or follow CCP on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter).