

The Eastern Connecticut Association of REALTORS® Receives National Grant for Expanding Housing Opportunities

(North Franklin) (June 7, 2017) – The Eastern Connecticut Association of REALTORS® was awarded a \$2500 grant from the National Association of Realtors®' Housing Opportunity Program to support activities that create and expand affordable housing opportunities. The grant will be used to educate potential home buyers on the benefit of using a Realtor® throughout the homebuying process, how to reduce debt and financially prepare for buying a home, and what loan programs are available help to make homeownership affordable. The Seminars will also help potential home sellers understand the current market, and how to prepare their home for maximum return on investment.

“Realtors® build communities and work hard to make housing affordable to all who are willing and able to become homeowners,” said Marilyn Lusher, ECAR President. “This grant will help raise awareness about the need for more housing opportunities in our community, as well identify and promote solutions that address affordable housing. Through the Housing Opportunity Grants, homeownership can become an attainable dream for many hard-working American families across the country.”

With emphasis on real estate being local, the grant will be used to host and promote the three-part symposia in Killingly, Norwich, and Groton. “Who knows how to help today’s renters become tomorrow’s homeowners better than a local Realtor® and the Affiliates they work with?” said Lusher. “The same goes for helping someone transition out of their home”. By providing housing statistics, trends, and tips for home buyers and sellers, these Seminars will help expand affordable housing opportunities across Eastern Connecticut.

NAR’s Housing Opportunity Grants were established in 2006. Individual grants are awarded ten times per year. Since the program’s inception, over 500 grants totaling more than \$1.75 million have been awarded.

The grants support a wide range of housing opportunity activities, including housing symposia; home buyer education or housing fairs; counseling and financial literacy efforts; down payment or closing cost financial assistance programs; housing needs studies; and Realtor® affordable housing education.