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## Comer joins RIHousing as deputy executive director

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James Comer

Providence, RI According to RIHousing, James Comer has joined the agency in the position of deputy executive director. Comer has extensive experience in strategic planning, property management and affordable housing finance. He most recently served as executive director of Women's Development Corp. (WDC), a Rhode Island-based community development corporation.

Comer previously worked in RIHousing's Development division, prior to continuing his career in several senior-level positions during his almost 25 years in the housing industry. Prior to joining WDC, Comer served as director of operations at the Cambridge Housing Authority, where he was responsible for the management, maintenance and tenant selection for 2,700+ units and oversaw the redevelopment of six large developments totaling \$175 million in improvements.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to come back to RIHousing as it enters an exciting time in its history," said Comer. "New leadership and new opportunities mean RIHousing is uniquely positioned to build on its almost 50-year history of providing housing opportunities for Rhode Islanders."

In his new role, Comer will have oversight of all federal programs at RIHousing, working closely with agency directors to administer, adapt and develop programs that respond to the rapidly changing nature of affordable housing and Rhode Islanders' needs. As Deputy Executive Director, Comer will work closely with senior leadership to strategically identify and implement housing finance initiatives that help expand and diversify RIHousing's programs.

"James' experience in all aspects of affordable housing and community development makes him the ideal candidate for this position," said Carol Ventura, executive director of RIHousing. "Our board of commissioners and leadership team have many ideas on expanding RIHousing's reach, and feel confident that James will help us achieve those goals."

"We're excited to have James back on board," said Ventura. "His passion for and experience in building the kinds of vibrant communities where people want to live will help to grow our programs and advance our mission."

Comer holds a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and a

Bachelor's degree from Boston College. Comer has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Massachusetts Chapter, and the Housing Network of Rhode Island.

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