

# CDFIS: BOOSTING THE HOUSING SUPPLY

## LEVITICUS FUND HELPS FAITH COMMUNITIES DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

YIGBY: YES IN GOD'S BACK YARD - USING LAND AND BUILDINGS AS AN EXPRESSION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

### Brentwood, NY

CDFI: LEVITICUS 25:23 ALTERNATIVE FUND, INC.

The "YIGBY" movement encourages faith-based organizations to use their land to develop affordable housing. It flips the script on the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) sentiment and frames the use of land and buildings as an expression of mission and ministry. In 2018, the Leviticus Fund commissioned a study, "Land for the Common Good," to identify examples and best practices of how religious communities were using planning and partnerships to repurpose their property for mixed-use development, adaptive reuse, and land conservation.

In 2024, the Leviticus Fund closed a \$2.3 million predevelopment loan to Concern Housing, a nonprofit housing developer, to convert the 100-year-old Academy of St. Joseph in Brentwood, NY into 176 units of supportive and affordable housing. In the fall of 2025, Ralph Fasano, Executive Director of Concern Housing, and Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, were honored by the New York State Council of Churches with an award for Excellence in Housing Justice. In his acceptance remarks, Ralph touched on the challenges of developing this much-needed housing, and the important role that faith-based organizations can play in bringing these projects to fruition.

The Leviticus Fund put its research into action, by working with partners like the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood and Concern Housing.

