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*For Immediate Release...*

## **Berlin Awarded \$1.4 Million in Federal Funding for Community Center at Historic Flower Street School Site**

Berlin, MD – The Town of Berlin is excited to announce that, through the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture (AG) Appropriations Bill, the town has been awarded \$1.4 million in federal funding for the future Community Center on Flower Street. The federal funding, requested and secured by U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks (both D-Md.) and administered by the USDA Rural Development, will fund the early phases of the project, including site preparation, project design, and future construction related to SHORE UP! Inc. programming and facilities. Once the multigenerational facility is complete, it will house SHORE UP! Inc.'s Head Start Center, programs for children and families, computer labs, recreational spaces, and a museum highlighting the history of the site and neighborhood.

"Investing in community spaces that serve our residents helps neighborhoods thrive. That's why we fought to secure this direct federal funding to help the Town of Berlin move forward with a new community center at the historic Flower Street School site. This effort demonstrates how we can learn from the past to create a better future for all as we convert this building into a hub for the community," said Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Town of Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said, "The Berlin community is working hard to preserve the site of the historic Flower Street School and create a community center that meets the needs of residents of all ages. I sincerely thank Senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks for supporting Berlin's request for funding for this vital project in our community. This investment allows us to take meaningful steps forward toward making our community's vision a reality."

"Our communities need spaces where people can go to learn, socialize, and better their community. The Community Center on Flower Street in Berlin will soon become a space of fellowship, friendship, history, and advocacy where children and seniors alike can grow. I am proud that the funding Senator Van Hollen and I worked to secure will launch this terrific project," said Senator Alsobrooks.

The Town of Berlin will continue working with community partners and the USDA Rural Development team to bring this project to fruition. Updates will be provided as additional milestones are reached.

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