

HOUSING EXPERT WYATT SCHROEDER JOINS INFINITE ERIE TEAM; AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING TOPS 2025 AGENDA

INFINITE ERIE CONVENING LEADERS TO COMBAT ERIE'S HOUSING CRISIS RELEASE***RELEASE*** RELEASE***RELEASE***RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ERIE, **PA** (January 29, 2025) — Infinite Erie named Wyatt Schroeder Housing Director today, drawing critical expertise to the region as Erie leadership builds momentum toward affordable housing solutions. As part of the Infinite Erie team, Wyatt will lend expertise to organizations and projects in Erie tackling the full spectrum of the Erie housing crisis.

"It is a community-wide responsibility to ensure that everyone goes home tonight to a safe and stable environment," said Infinite Erie Housing Director Wyatt Schroeder, "Infinite Erie wants to be a partner to any organization that is working to preserve or create housing in Erie County."

Wyatt has worked on the issue of homelessness and affordable housing for more than 14 years, stemming from a fervent belief that everyone deserves a safe, stable, and affordable home. He has served roles from executive nonprofit leadership to grassroots organizer to local government official.

Currently, Wyatt serves as the Executive Director of Hemlock & Forge, a supportive housing consultancy focused on ending homelessness and achieving housing equity in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Wyatt has also served as the project manager for the Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First Erie initiative.

"Infinite Erie is pleased to provide Wyatt's vast expertise to the policy, community, and finance experts we have already convened to help tackle the housing crisis," said Infinite Erie Executive Director Kim Thomas. "With several key initiatives taking form over the past two years, like Housing First Erie, momentum is well underway, and we will continue to drive action."

In 2024 Infinite Erie worked extensively with <u>Housing First Erie</u>. It costs the community roughly \$50,000 per year to support each person experiencing chronic homelessness. Housing First Erie and Infinite Erie aim to improve and save the lives of Erie's most vulnerable while bringing money back to the community. Since involvement began, Infinite Erie has provided planning support and identified transformative funding. Together, the Housing First Erie project team has secured the Washington Square property at 148 W. 21st St., where it will eventually provide more than 70 safe, healthy and stable housing units.

Going forward, Infinite Erie will focus on the full spectrum of Erie's housing issues. This includes supportive housing, affordable housing, workforce housing and market-rate housing. This builds on the coalition-based approach Infinite Erie has previously used as the area's convening force.

Erie County residents can stay updated with Infinite Erie on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X.

ABOUT INFINITE ERIE

Infinite Erie is a community and economic development strategy designed to harness funding opportunities, unify diverse public, private, and civic stakeholders around a common vision, and advance equitable economic development across Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The current projects Infinite Erie supports put money directly back into our community. If fully implemented, these projects would generate \$500 million of economic impact, support and sustain over 3,500 jobs and contribute \$21 million to the state and local tax base.

Coordinating inclusive growth strategies for transformative change, Infinite Erie brings together a cross-sector coalition with shared goals to: Foster economic growth; Promote vibrant neighborhoods; Build a diversified economy that benefits everyone.

Powered by the Erie Action Team, Infinite Erie is committed to coordinating solutions of excellence to overcome complex challenges and to putting plans into action - ultimately catalyzing transformational growth and driving Erie County toward a more vibrant, equitable future.