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Work to start on 31-unit Chandler St. development



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A rendering of a planned 31-unit housing development by Common Ground Worcester for Chandler Street.

PHOTO | GRANT WELKER

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By Grant Welker

Ceremonial construction is set to start in April on a 31-unit, \$14-million housing development on Chandler Street in Worcester.

Worcester Common Ground, a nonprofit community development corporation based at 5 Piedmont St., will be renovating an existing building across the street at 126 Chandler St. and adding a five-story wing at the adjacent 120 Chandler St. after demolishing a building and garages.

The project, next to Chandler Elementary Community School, will create new apartments to help chip away at the area's needs for affordable housing, said Yvette Dyson, the Worcester Common Ground executive director. About 70 applications are on the organization's wait

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The project will have one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments set aside for households earning 30% to 60% of the area mean income. It will also include a 1,600-square-foot commercial space set to host an acupuncturist, Horizon Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic, and a community room with a kitchen for public events.

The project's groundbreaking comes as Worcester Common Ground has received a \$125,000 grant from TD Bank. The New Jersey-based bank gave \$3.75 million for 30 housing improvement projects along the East Coast, including one each in Boston and Chelsea and others in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

TD Bank's funding may help with Worcester Common Ground's plans for an agricultural component to the Chandler Street development, Dyson said.

The Worcester Common Ground project will take place adjacent to a development in the works next door at 128 Chandler St., where 47 units of housing are planned in a project called Stamp Factory Lofts. Two businessmen, Daniel Stroe and Timothy Adler, bought the 31,000-square-foot mill building in March 2019 for \$700,000.

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