



The Board of Directors of the Consortium for Housing and Asset Management (CHAM) announces their unanimous appointment of Seth Leonard as the organization's new Executive Director, effective April 6, 2026.

To CHAM, Seth brings a deep commitment to the importance of asset management to the affordable housing sector and a breadth of public and nonprofit leadership positions at local, state and federal levels. "The CHAM Board enthusiastically welcomes Seth to help guide our journey as we continue to highlight the importance of asset management in building resilient affordable housing owners and operators," said Brian Bieler, Chair of the CHAM Board of Directors. "We're inspired by his vision, passion for this work, and broad professional background. We look forward to working with and alongside him to expand CHAM's impact, reach and influence nationwide, building on the growth of CHAM under Executive Director, Julia Pierson."

"This is a pivotal time for the asset management industry, and an exciting time to step into this role," said Seth. "CHAM has a strong foundation and has built a truly special community. I'm thrilled to be working alongside our deeply dedicated Board, staff, key stakeholders, and network of partners. Asset managers are the stewards of our nation's affordable housing portfolio, and by strengthening our dynamic field through training, mentoring, and networking, CHAM will continue playing a foundational role in creating a future where every community's housing needs are met. I look forward to leveraging my experience and passion to help the Board and our network shape a bold vision for CHAM's next generation of impact."

Seth's career has focused on reshaping how resources and capital are used to build strong and thriving communities. He spent a decade with the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), including five years as Managing Director of Community Development. In this role, he oversaw more than \$1 billion in lending and tax credit activity, financed hundreds of new affordable housing units annually, and helped raise over \$160 million in new capital for innovative statewide programs. In Vermont, also served as Mayor of Winooski, where he guided municipal policy, budgeting, and community planning.

Leonard began his career at Opportunities Credit Union, where he developed an asset management and quality control system. He also managed property and loan compliance and servicing as Housing Programs Director as with U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. He most recently served as Manager of the Center for Multifamily Preservation at the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), where he directed technical preservation activities for community development non-profits and public housing authorities. He is a strong believer in training and capacity building, and actively shaped and built out content and thought leadership conferences at both HAC and VHFA.

Seth holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and son.

The [Consortium for Housing and Asset Management](#) is the only national professional association for affordable housing asset managers. CHAM's mission is to provide professional asset management training, thought leadership and programs that support a community of practitioners to ensure long-term sustainability, resilience and preservation of affordable housing. CHAM provides the asset management field with professional training courses, networking opportunities, conferences and webinars and more, promoting mission-driven asset management to preserve our nation's affordable housing resources.

Outgoing Executive Director [Julia Pierson](#) will remain engaged in the coming months to support a smooth leadership transition and CHAM's upcoming conference.