



NATIONAL CONVENING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 | 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. HOTEL MARCEL, NEW HAVEN

8:30–9:00 Breakfast	
9:00–9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks	Allyx Schiavone , Chief Executive Officer, FCfC Mayor Arulampalam , Mayor of Hartford Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton , President & Chief Executive Officer, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
9:30–9:50 First Home, First Teacher Overview	Miriam Sutton , Chief Operating Officer, FCfC Allyx Schiavone , Chief Executive Officer, FCfC
9:50–10:30 First Home, First Teacher Educator Voices	Moderator: Laura Hutchinson , WTNH News Channel 8 Eric Gil , FCfC Infant/Toddler Head Teacher, Housing Resident, 1.8 years Paris Pierce , FCfC Preschool Assistant Teacher, Housing Resident, 5.8 years Carina Figueroa , FCfC Preschool Assistant Teacher, Housing Resident, 2 months
10:30–10:50 Morning Reflections	Dr. Walter Gilliam , Executive Director, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, introduced by Audrey Nefores , Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer, FCfC
10:50–11:15 Break	
11:15–12:10 Panel 1 The Case for Rent-Free Teacher Housing	Moderator: Miriam Sutton , Chief Operating Officer, FCfC Beth Bye , former Connecticut Early Childhood Commissioner Dean Deborah Berke , Yale School of Architecture Representative Corey P. Paris , Connecticut State Representative Shael Polakow-Suransky , President, Bank Street College of Education
12:10–12:50 Lunch	
12:50–1:15 Afternoon Considerations	Commissioner Elena Trueworthy , CT Office of Early Childhood Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro , U.S. Representative for Connecticut's Third District
1:15–2:15 Panel 2 From One Home to a Movement: How Others Are Replicating Rent-Free Teacher Housing	Moderator: Caroline Tanbee Smith , Executive Director, Civic Works Kathy Szenda Wilson and Maria Ortiz Borden , Co-Executive Directors, Pulse, an Initiative of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Ellicia Lanier , Chief Executive Director, Urban Sprouts Mindy Gold , Capitol Child Development Center Dr. James Goodlet , Lead Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange
2:15–2:30 Break	
2:30–3:30 Panel 3 From Pilot to Policy: The Funding & Legislative Landscape for Workforce Housing	Moderator: Allyx Schiavone , Chief Executive Officer, FCfC Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton , President & Chief Executive Officer, CFGNH Jamie L. Schriener , Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Kirby Burkholder , CEO, IFF Senator Martin M. Looney , Connecticut Senate President Pro Tempore
3:30 Closing Remarks	Audrey Nefores , Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer, FCfC

NATIONAL CONVENING SCHEDULE

GRAND OPENING OF THE NATION'S FIRST RENT-FREE TEACHER HOUSING VILLAGE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 | 5:30–7:30 P.M. 75 HOWARD STREET, NEW HAVEN

Program	
5:30-6:15 Rent-Free Teacher Housing Village Grand Opening	Tour the village, connect with educators and fellow guests, and enjoy New Haven pizza and light refreshments as we celebrate the Yale School of Architecture Building Project 26 Open House.
6:15-6:45 Welcome and Remarks	President Maurie McInnis , Yale University Dean Deborah Berke , Yale School of Architecture Mayor Elicker , Mayor of New Haven Teacher Housing Resident , FCfC Allyx Schiavone , Chief Executive Officer, FCfC
6:45-7:30 Community and Connections	Connect with neighbors and fellow guests, and enjoy dessert!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026 | 8:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. HOTEL MARCEL, NEW HAVEN BON VOYAGE BREAKFAST & PARTNER MEETINGS

8:00–9:00 Breakfast	
9:00–9:30 Reflections	Participants share what stood out from the convening, ask questions that remain, and identify ideas they want to explore further.
9:30-10:00 Next Steps	Explore what support Friends Center for Children can provide communities interested in the rent-free teacher housing model: including financing, development, partnerships, and implementation.
10:00-11:00 Breakout Sessions	What would it take to bring First Home, First Teacher to more communities? Explore lessons learned from existing programs, funding opportunities, and strategies to build public will for lasting systems change. Discuss how Friends Center can support communities through technical assistance.
11:00-12:00 Individual Meetings	Meet one-on-one with Friends Center team members for a more personal conversation about your community's interests, questions and goals for rent-free teacher housing, and explore how we might work together.
12:00 BON VOYAGE	

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN NEW HAVEN