



CULLEN RYAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Community Housing of Maine
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ABOUT CULLEN RYAN

Cullen Ryan has served homeless and special needs populations for 37 years. A formerly licensed clinician (LICSW) with a BA from the University of Vermont and an MA in Counseling and Psychological Services from St. Mary's University (Minnesota), Cullen has provided case management, family therapy, and individual/group psychotherapy to homeless adults, families, and adolescents in a variety of clinical and non-clinical settings in three states. Since 2004, Cullen has served as Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine, the largest supportive housing provider for homeless and special needs populations in the state.

Cullen has organized, united, and led diverse groups, helping Maine and other states speak with one voice to effect change for vulnerable populations through local, state, and federal policy development. Cullen has been elected to numerous leadership roles focused on ending homelessness and improving the system of care for people with disabilities in Maine. He recently co-chaired the Maine's Statewide Homeless Council, co-chaired the Board of Evernorth, chairs the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board, chairs the Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services, and serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Maine Continuum of Care. Cullen was a past chair of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition.

Cullen's advocacy has been recognized by receipt of various awards: The Maine Association of Community Service Providers (MACSP) Legislative Advocacy Award for outstanding efforts to support people with disabilities and their families in 2013; the Joseph Brannigan Community Excellence Award for providing supportive housing options and advocacy for homeless and special needs populations in Maine in 2014; the Port Resources Shining Star Award in recognition of strong advocacy and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges in 2015; Spurwink's Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2021; the MACSP Bonnie-Jean Brooks Leading Light Award in 2023; and the Imagine Portland 2024 Collaborator Award.

ABOUT CHOM

Mission & Values

CHOM creates, owns and maintains high-quality homes to house more than 1,200 of Maine's most vulnerable people. Since its inception in 1993, Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) has been one of the most creative affordable housing developers in the state. CHOM collaborates to produce and maintain community-based housing that fosters a sense of pride, dignity, and respect and ensures its residents receive sufficient support to be successful in their homes. While its direct work is in providing housing, CHOM is deeply dedicated to advocating for equity. CHOM advocates on behalf of all vulnerable populations on local, state, and federal policy issues to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion for all populations.