FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Valley Educational Associates’ Chicopee Program Expansion**

HATFIELD, MA (July 2, 2019) Valley Educational Associates is renovating the Chicopee program facility on Meadow Drive to meet the needs of the growing population of adults with developmental disabilities.

Construction broke ground on [DATE] and the expansion was financed by the nonprofit’s Board of Directors. The new space will add an additional 2,200 square feet divided into four classrooms. Consideration was given in the planning process for calming colors, a sensorial room for Autism, and special lighting.

“I am so excited to finally see this dream of mine coming true,” says Kate DaSilva, Executive Director. “The board and I have been planning and discussing this renovation for a year and half. It is projected that XXXX number of adults on the Autism spectrum will be in the Department of Developmental Services funding and will be seeking a home program to attend. Our staff is proud to offer our newly expanded facility as a viable option.”

**About Valley Educational Associates, Inc.**: Incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit in 1982 to provide vocational training, employment services, and day services to adults with disabilities. Valley Educational Associates serves over 80 individuals in three program locations in Western Massachusetts. The programs are structured into community based day services, vocational, and supported employment settings. Valley Educational Associates has proudly has achieved nine consecutive *Certifications with Distinction* and participated in ten distinctive survey and certification reviews with the Office of Quality Enhancement (OQE) within the Office of Quality Management. Valley Educational Associates is a member of the Human Service Forum, Providers’ Council, Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, and Northampton Chamber of Commerce.

**Our Mission:** Valley Educational Associates’ specialized professionals strive to improve the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities.

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