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NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING STATE PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, DC – Twenty (20) state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) programs received Annual Awards for Program Excellence during the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) 2012 Annual Conference & Showplace in Orlando, FL.

Now in its 28th year, NCSHA's awards program mission is to share information about the most successful housing programs, identify industry best practices, recognize exemplary HFA efforts, and encourage HFA innovation. Entries were judged on criteria that included originality, innovation, a proven track record in the marketplace, cost/benefit ratio, and measurable benefits provided to targeted customers. The seven categories are:

- Communications
- Homeownership
- Legislative Campaign
- Management Innovation
- Rental Housing
- Special Needs Housing
- Special Achievement

The winning programs in each category were chosen from among 121 entries nationally and will serve as models for other HFAs.

"Our awards program represents the best work of HFAs from across the country," said Barbara Thompson, executive director of NCSHA. "This collegial sharing of information about what works drives all HFAs to be more successful in achieving our common mission of providing affordable housing to those who need it."

A list of the 2012 NCSHA Annual Awards for Program Excellence Winners follows:

Category	Winner	Program Name	Contact
Communications: Annual Report	Washington State Housing Finance Commission	<i>"A State of Change"</i>	Kim Herman Executive Director Washington State Housing Finance Commission, 1000 2 nd Ave Ste 2700 Seattle, WA 98104-3601 206-464-7139
Communications: Creative Media	California Housing Finance Agency	<i>"Keep Your Home California"</i> Marketing Campaign	Evan Gerberding Marketing Specialist California Housing Finance Agency PO BOX 4034 Sacramento, CA 95812- 4034 916-326-8602
Communications: Promotional Materials & Newsletters	Rhode Island Housing	Hardest Hit Fund Rhode Island Outreach Campaign	Faye Zuckerman Communications Director Rhode Island Housing 44 Washington Street Providence, RI 02903 401-277-1564
Homeownership: Empowering New Buyers (<i>tie</i>)	Illinois Housing Development Authority	Welcome Home Heroes	Molly Sullivan Director, Marketing and Communications Illinois Housing Development Authority 312-836-5205
Homeownership: Empowering New Buyers (<i>tie</i>)	Virginia Housing Development Authority	Empowering New Buyers in Rural Regions	Brian Matt Public Relations Manager Virginia Housing Development Authority 601 S Belvidere St, Richmond, VA 23220 804-343-5520
Homeownership: Encouraging New Production	New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency	CHOICES in Homeownership	Donna Rendeiro/Amy Palmer New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, PO Box 18550 Trenton, NJ 08650-2085 609-278-7400

Homeownership: Home Improvement & Rehabilitation	Illinois Housing Development Authority	Illinois Building Blocks Pilot Program - Saving Communities	Molly Sullivan Director, Marketing and Communications Illinois Housing Development Authority 312-836-5205
Legislative Campaign: Federal	Michigan State Housing Development Authority	MSHDA Congressional Brochures	Mary Lou Keenon Communications Director Michigan State Housing Development Authority PO Box 30044 Lansing, MI 48909-7544 517-881-0216
Legislative Campaign: State	Minnesota Housing	Minnesota Housing Legislative Campaign - Successfully Positioning Investment in Housing as Investment in Infrastructure	Megan Ryan Communications Director Minnesota Housing 400 Sibley St, Ste 300, Saint Paul, MN 55101- 1938 651-297-3566
Management Innovation: Financial	Nebraska Investment Finance Authority	This is Different: A New Recipe For HFA's	Ted Simpson Deputy Director of Programs Nebraska Investment Finance Authority 1230 O St 200 Commerce Court, Lincoln, NE 68508-1402 402-898-2503
Management Innovation: Human Resources	Idaho Housing and Finance Association	Federal Programs Time Tracking System	Katrina Thompson Marketing and Communications Manager Idaho Housing and Finance Association P.O. Box 7899, Boise, ID 83707-1899 208-331-4738

Management Innovation: Operations	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Two Weeks Notice	Stacy Schubert Director, Government Relations & Public Affairs Alaska Housing Finance Corporation PO Box 101020, Anchorage, AK 99510-1020 907-301-4556
Management Innovation: Technology	Virginia Housing Development Authority	ProLink	Brian Matt Public Relations Manager Virginia Housing Development Authority 601 S Belvidere St, Richmond, VA 23220 804-343-5520
Rental Housing: Encouraging New Production	Virginia Housing Development Authority	New Construction Strategy for High Growth Areas	Brian Matt Public Relations Manager Virginia Housing Development Authority 601 S Belvidere St, Richmond, VA 23220 804-343-5520
Rental Housing: Multifamily Management	Illinois Housing Development Authority	A Streamlined Approach to Multifamily Assets	Molly Sullivan Director, Marketing and Communications Illinois Housing Development Authority 312-836-5205
Rental Housing: Preservation & Rehabilitation	New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority	Greener Homes Program	Jane Law Director, Communications New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority PO Box 5087, Manchester, NH 03108-5087 603-310-9255
Special Needs Housing: Combating Homelessness	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for Former Prisoners	Stacy Schubert Director, Government Relations & Public Affairs Alaska Housing Finance Corporation PO Box 101020, Anchorage, AK 99510-1020 907-301-4556

Special Needs Housing: Housing for Persons with Special Needs (<i>tie</i>)	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Special Needs Housing Grant Program	Stacy Schubert Director, Government Relations & Public Affairs Alaska Housing Finance Corporation PO Box 101020, Anchorage, AK 99510-1020 907-301-4556
Special Needs Housing: Housing for Persons with Special Needs (<i>tie</i>)	Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency	Nursing Home Transition Rental Assistance	Scott Elliott Director of Communications Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency 211 N Front St Harrisburg, PA 17101-1406 717-780-3916
Special Achievement	Rhode Island Housing	Foreclosure Prevention: Help for Homeowners	Faye Zuckerman Communications Director Rhode Island Housing 44 Washington Street Providence, RI 02903 401-277-1564

For more information about NCSHA’s Annual Awards Program for Excellence, please visit our website at www.ncsha.org.

State Housing Finance Agencies – known as HFAs – share a public purpose mission to provide affordable housing help to the people of their jurisdictions who need it.

The National Council of State Housing Agencies – known as NCSHA – is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan association that advocates on behalf of HFAs before Congress and the Administration for affordable housing resources. It represents the HFAs of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Membership also includes more than 300 affordable housing industry partners.

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