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WSHFC director honored for rural housing leadership



Kim Herman accepts the Harry L. Tomlinson Award on Jan. 27.

SEATTLE, Wash.—Kim Herman, director of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, has been honored by the national Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) for his commitment to multifamily rural housing.

Mr. Herman received the Harry L. Tomlinson Award at CARH’s mid-year meeting in Las Vegas at the end of January. The award has been presented each year since 1983 to honor meritorious achievements by a public servant working to provide or manage affordable housing in rural areas.

“One third of Washington’s residents live in rural areas,” said Mr. Herman of his award. “They are an important part of our population—they deserve to have decent, affordable homes to return to each night.”

A native of Spokane, Wash., Mr. Herman began his career in affordable housing with a focus on rural areas. He served as executive director of a housing development agency in the Mississippi Delta before working in Washington, D.C., for the national Rural Housing Alliance/Rural America.

Back in Washington state, Mr. Herman led HUD’s Rural Assistance Initiative and led the Yakima Housing Authority. He advocated for safe, adequate housing for farmworkers and people of low incomes in rural areas throughout the state.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission in 1983 and was chosen as its first executive director. He has remained its leader for 30 years.

Under his leadership, the Commission has used tools such as housing revenue bonds and housing tax credits to create affordable rental housing and homeownership for more than 307,000 Washington residents in every area of the state—including farmworkers, tribal members, seniors, and lower-income residents in rural areas.

Mr. Herman is an ongoing active member of the National Rural Housing Coalition and of both the Washington state and national Council for Affordable and Rural Housing.

CARH (www.carh.org) is a national non-profit trade organization with 300 members in the affordable rural housing profession, including developers, managers, non-profits, housing authorities, syndicators, lenders, and companies that supply goods and services to the industry.

“Kim is a supporter of rural housing and understands the importance and role that tax credits have played in helping preserve the rural housing portfolio,” said Colleen Fisher, executive director of CARH. “We appreciate all of his efforts at the state level and look forward to working with him in the future.”

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The [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](http://www.wshfc.org) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that brings private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington. Over 30 years, the Commission has created and preserved more than 275,000 affordable homes across the state, while contributing more than \$42.5 billion and 240,000 jobs to the economy.



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