

2022 Friend of Housing Awards honor state's housing champions

October 17, 2022— The Washington State Housing Finance Commission has honored six individuals and organizations as 2022 “Friends of Housing.”

“We are so pleased to honor those with exceptional dedication to increasing housing, fighting homelessness and serving people in Washington,” said Bill Rumpf, chair of the Housing Finance Commission. “This year’s six awardees truly make a difference in our state and in their communities.”

The [Friend of Housing awards](#) were presented October 2 in a ceremony at the annual [Housing Washington Conference](#) in Spokane.

2022 Friend of Housing Awardees (and Categories):

- **Maureen Howard (Margaret M. Sevy Lifetime Achievement Award):** One of the earliest voices sounding the alarm as homelessness emerged in the 1980s, Maureen has spent the last 40 years as a highly effective advocate, leader of shelter and service organizations, and teacher and mentor for others. She has contributed immeasurably to the fight to end homelessness statewide and especially in Tacoma/Pierce County.
- **Nancy Nash-Mendez (Community Crisis Response):** As the executive director of the Housing Authority of Okanogan County, Nancy led her community through the crises of multiple natural disasters and the closure of a lumber mill costing many local jobs. Nancy secured financing to preserve 154 units of affordable housing and is in collaboration with Methow Housing Trust to construct rental housing and affordable single-family homes.
- **Bremerton Housing Authority (Community Crisis Response):** Thanks to BHA’s research-based challenge to HUD fair-market calculations, the percentage of Kitsap County rentals affordable to people with rental vouchers increased from 10% to 40%. Additionally, BHA is working with landlords to help them understand the voucher program and open even more doors for these renters.
- **Terry Britt (Unsung Hero):** As a peer support Specialist for Spokane County’s Housing & Recovery Through Peer Services Program, Terry proactively works with property managers to secure housing for his clients, who often have many barriers to housing. Terry helps ease the process by assisting with all the steps necessary to attain a unit—helping his client to succeed and the property to have a great tenant.
- **Antonia Medrano (Emerging Leader):** As a housing counselor with the OIC of Washington, Antonia helps families facing foreclosure to keep their homes. She has earned certifications in foreclosure and financial counseling and leads financial workshops for young people. Her dedication to teammates and clients sets the bar high and gives hope for the future of housing.
- **Representative Frank Chopp (Housing Intersection):** Rep. Chopp’s leadership secured the support of legislators and over 80 organizations across the state to pass the bi-partisan Apple Health & Homes Act. This program at the intersection of housing and health care is an investment in permanent housing plus supportive services for Medicaid-eligible people who have experienced chronic homelessness and have complex health or behavioral health conditions.

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The [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that brings private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington.