



Press Release

Housing Authority Wins National Merit Award for Family Service Expansion.

Washington, D.C. (July 12, 2016) - The Boone County Housing Authority has been chosen as a recipient of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Awards of Merit: Administrative Innovation for its Family Service Expansion Program. The official presentation of the award will take place in Portland, Ore. on July 15 during NAHRO's Summer Conference.

"The NAHRO Awards of Merit Program was created to give national recognition to NAHRO Member organizations that have found innovative ways of making a difference in the communities and the lives of the people they serve" said, NAHRO President Steve Merritt.

Faced with severe national administrative fee funding cuts, the Boone County Housing Authority (BCHA) had to meet the challenge of how to both retain current services and expand services to the families it serves. They found another agency facing funding loss, the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), and provided them with a free office share with the agreement that LSSI would maintain full weekly office operation so BCHA families could have access to the computer lab and housing authority forms, and LSSI would provide bilingual services. BCHA also partnered with Winnebago County Housing Authority (WCHA) arranging for free FSS services for residents as part of the WCHA management operation.

"This program celebrates achievement and honors the work that our members do each and every day to ensure a safe and affordable place to call home. Showcasing the efforts of housing agencies and agency officials through NAHRO's Awards of Merit" said, NAHRO Acting CEO John Bohm.

"We hope that the general public, community leaders, private industry and government itself will become inspired to reform and enhance existing housing and community development programs and in addition create new ground-breaking programs and services to meet the housing needs our nation's most vulnerable citizens."

The 2016 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories. *Administrative Innovation* recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation. *Program Innovation — Affordable Housing* includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing. *Program Innovation — Community Revitalization* includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing. *Program Innovation — Resident and Client Services* includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency. *Project Design* includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.



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See NAHRO's 2016 Agency Awards of Merit in Housing and Community Development.

http://www.nahro.org/sites/default/files/searchable/NAHRO_2016_AwardsBooklet_FINAL.pdf

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About NAHRO

NAHRO, established in 1933, is a membership organization of 20,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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