



CALL FOR ENTRIES -- 2012 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

At the June 13, 2012 Annual Meeting of the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND), awards will be presented to organizations and individuals that have provided outstanding affordable housing projects, programs, and support for low- and moderate-income citizens of the greater Washington, D.C. metro area during 2011. All awards are open to HAND member projects and programs located in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area (Baltimore to Richmond). The purpose of the awards remains to recognize creative, innovative approaches in the industry which result in quality developments and programs. The winner in each category will receive a complimentary table of 10 and exhibit booth at the HAND Annual Meeting on June 13, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. (a \$750 value).

The categories for awards are as follows:

1. Nonprofit Developer of the Year
2. Best Small Affordable Housing Project
3. Best Large Affordable Housing Project
4. Best Community Life Program
5. Best Government Housing Initiative
6. Innovation Award
7. Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend of the Year
8. Best Housing Partner
9. President's Choice Award

DESCRIPTION OF AWARD CATEGORIES:

1. **Nonprofit Developer of the Year** – recognizes the outstanding overall achievement and impact of a nonprofit affordable housing developer during 2011.
2. **Best Small Affordable Housing Project (50 units or less)**– recognizes a particular, exemplary small affordable housing development in the D.C./Maryland/Northern Virginia region (Baltimore to Richmond). Small developments have 50 units of housing or less. Both rental and homeownership developments are eligible. To be considered, the project must have been rehabilitated/constructed/financed during 2011 and in service and available for use by residents by 12/31/2011. *Note that the developer/owner of the project will be the award recipient, even if another partner submits the nomination.*
3. **Best Large Affordable Housing Project (More than 50 units)**– recognizes a particular, exemplary large affordable housing development in the D.C./Maryland/Northern Virginia region (Baltimore to Richmond). Large developments have more than 50 units of housing. Both rental and homeownership developments are eligible. To be considered, the project must have been rehabilitated/constructed/financed during 2011 and in service and available for use by residents by 12/31/2011. *Note that the developer/owner of the project will be the award recipient, even if another partner submits the nomination.*

4. **Best Community Life Program** -- recognizes an outstanding community program that improves the quality of life of the residents of an affordable housing development and/or residents of the surrounding neighborhood. It could include social service programs, community organizing, neighborhood planning or any other program that has a positive impact on the community. The program must have been operational for at least 3 months in 2011 and still in existence as of 12/31/2011.
5. **Best Government Housing Initiative** -- recognizes an exemplary affordable housing initiative by a state or local government. Examples might include: foreclosure prevention, preservation or supportive housing. To be considered, the project must have been available for use by low-income residents by 12/31/11 or the program must have been operational for at least 3 months in 2011 and still in existence as of 12/31/2011.
6. **Innovation Award** -- The intent is to recognize a best practice, program or feature of a project that exhibits an innovative approach to improvement in or expansion of affordable housing in the region. Special consideration will be given to unprecedented, truly unique, projects or programs that have not been undertaken in our region. Examples might include: a project with a unique environmental or green building element, a project with creative financing, a partnership between unique groups, new uses of local resources, a new public or private sector financing program, an information technology product or service, or a new, more flexible approach to providing design, development, construction or financial services.
7. **Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend Award** -- recognizes an individual or group of individuals who provide outstanding support or service to a nonprofit housing or service organization. Past winners have included advocates, elected officials, neighborhood leaders and local business members.
8. **Best Partner Award** -- recognizes the exemplary contributions of a HAND for-profit member; financial institution, syndicator, attorney, architect, engineer, etc. who has been a true partner in the effort to increase and preserve affordable housing in the region. This award will be given to the organization who not only promotes affordable housing, but who also supports nonprofit and government institutions developing and preserving housing *Nominations must come from a third-party, nonprofit HAND member (no self nominations in this category).*
9. **President's Choice Award** -- allows the President of HAND to present an award for lifetime achievement or for an exemplary, state of the art response to providing affordable housing or support service that was not selected in a stated category, that was not nominated for an award, or does not fit one of the other award categories. This category may or may not be used at the President's discretion. Nominations for this category are not necessary and will not be accepted.

GENERAL ENTRY GUIDELINES:

1. All entries must use the attached cover page. In addition to the cover sheet, please provide a **one-page statement** describing why the organization, project or program is deserving of the award in that category. The one page narrative should include a description of the project, program, organization or individual. If appropriate, include the number of units or persons served, affordable income levels targeted, when started or opened, total development or program cost, sources and uses of funds, etc. Please be sure to address the creative and/or innovative aspects of the nominated individual, organization and/or its project or program and any other characteristics that might meet the six judging criteria outlined below. Applicants may also submit up to three pages of additional supporting material (i.e., newspaper article, photo(s), award, testimonial, etc.). Please do NOT submit any multimedia (e.g. CD or DVD) presentations, as these will not be considered.
2. **All entries must be received by Friday, March 23, 2012. Please provide one (1) original and three (3) copies.** Mail to: Jill Norcross, Executive Director, HAND, 11956 Grey Squirrel Lane, Reston, VA 20194. Fax entries will NOT be accepted.
3. There is no fee to enter but all organizations who either submit an award or who is the intended award recipient must be current HAND members at the time of submission.
4. Self-nominations (except for Best Partner Award) and nominations by other HAND members are encouraged.
5. Prior year winners (2011) are not eligible to receive an award for the same category in 2012.
6. Winners will be notified no later than the week of April 23, 2012, and will be required to provide materials suitable for inclusion in a PowerPoint presentation in advance of the meeting.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Winners will be selected by a panel of three independent judges familiar with affordable housing development and programs.

1. Award-winning projects/programs MUST exemplify an innovative, state of the art response to providing affordable housing and/or support services. Applicants should be sure to address each of the following six criteria in their narrative application, as the judges will give special consideration to the following:
 - a. Address a particularly pressing affordable housing need
 - b. Demonstrate an efficient use of resources
 - c. Use creative financing to provide housing for a difficult to serve population
 - d. Show responsiveness to environmental issues and green building techniques
 - e. Promote outstanding quality in design and construction and/or service delivery
 - f. Serve a population with intensive service needs
2. Awards will be made at the discretion of the judges.
3. In the event the judges do not agree, the HAND Board will make the final decision.

2012 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

AWARD CATEGORY: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

PHONE / E-MAIL: _____

NOMINATED PROJECT / PROGRAM / ORGANIZATION / INDIVIDUAL NAME:

ADDRESS / LOCATION:

IF NOT A SELF-NOMINATION ORGANIZATION NOMINATED BY:

On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a one page description of the project, program, organization or individual. If appropriate, include the number of units or persons served, affordable income levels targeted, when started or opened, total development or program cost, sources and uses of funds, etc. Please be sure to address the creative and/or innovative aspects of the nominated individual, organization and/or its project or program and any other characteristics that might meet the judging criteria outlined in the award guidelines.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 23, 2012. Please contact Jill Norcross at 703-587-4098 or jnorcross@handhousing.org with any questions.