

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

## 2024 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HAND's Housing Achievement Awards will be presented at the organization's **33rd Annual HAND Honors**, taking place on June 13, 2024 from 6pm-9pm at The Kennedy Center. Awards will be presented to organizations and individuals that have provided outstanding affordable housing projects, programs, and support for low- and moderate-income residents in HAND's membership footprint (Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA). 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 ten tickets to attend the conference, a commemorative award, and a digital highlight in the program book. Additionally, award recipients will enjoy promotion leading up to the event, features in digital/video marketing collateral, and other public relations benefits.

### 2024 Housing Achievement Award Categories

- Developer of the Year
- Best Small Affordable Housing Project
- Best Large Affordable Housing Project
- Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend
- Best Housing Partner
- Emerging Leader
- Racial Equity in Action

### AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

- 1. Developer of the Year** – Recognizes the outstanding overall achievement and impact a developer of affordable housing has made during the 2023 calendar year. Entries should highlight developers whose portfolio exemplifies an excellent track record of leadership and innovation creating and/or preserving affordable housing in DC/Maryland/Virginia.  
**Who can submit nominations?** HAND members and self-nominations welcomed.  
**Intended Recipients:** Nonprofit and for-profit developers
- 2. Best Small Affordable Housing Project (100 units or less)** – Recognizes a particular, exemplary small affordable housing development in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region. Small developments have 100 units of housing or less. Both rental and homeownership developments are eligible. To be considered, the project must have been rehabilitated/constructed and in service by 12/31/2023.  
**Who can submit nominations?** HAND members and self-nominations welcomed.  
**Intended Recipients:** Nonprofit and for-profit developers
- 3. Best Large Affordable Housing Project (More than 100 units)** – Recognizes a particular, exemplary large affordable housing development in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region. Large developments have more than 100 units of housing. Both rental and homeownership developments are eligible. To be considered, the project must have been rehabilitated/constructed and in service by 12/31/2023.  
**Who can submit nominations?** HAND members and self-nominations welcomed.  
**Intended Recipients:** Nonprofit and for-profit developers

- 4. Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend** – Recognizes an individual or group who provides outstanding support or service to a nonprofit housing or service organization. The award is named for Virginia Peters, who was a champion for affordable housing in the region for 30 years. She founded Wesley Housing in 1974, and was instrumental in the founding of HAND in 1991. Ms. Peters believed in “the double bottom line,” doing *good* and doing *well*.  
**Who can submit nominations?** Nominations must come from a third-party HAND member. No self-nominations in this category.  
**Intended Recipients:** Past winners have included advocates, elected officials, neighborhood leaders and members of the business community.
- 5. Best Housing Partner** – Recognizes the exemplary contributions of a HAND for-profit or government member who has been a true partner in the effort to increase and preserve affordable housing in the region. This award will be given to organizations that promote affordable housing, and support organizations developing and preserving housing.  
**Who can submit nominations?** Nominations must come from a third-party, nonprofit HAND member. No self-nominations in this category.  
**Intended Recipients:** For-profit organizations and government agencies
- 6. Emerging Leader** - Recognizes an emerging leader under the age of 40, who has an exemplary dedication to, and notable achievements in, the mission of preserving and/or developing affordable housing in their respective field.  
**Who can submit nominations?** Nominations must come from a third-party HAND member. No self-nominations in this category.  
**Intended Recipients:** Emerging Leaders
- 7. Racial Equity in Action** – Recognizes an organization or institution that has successfully integrated racial equity in its policies, practices, programs, and budgets. The resulting product and process should reduce racial inequities and improve success for black and brown communities served by the organization. Entries should highlight how the applicant is embedding the values of racial equity into their operations, creating solutions that drive equitable and just outcomes for communities of color.  
**Who can submit nominations?** Nominations must come from a third-party HAND member. No self-nominations in this category.  
**Intended Recipients:** All HAND Members

#### **GENERAL ENTRY GUIDELINES:**

1. All entries must [complete the entry form online](#) (a copy is also included at the end of this document for you to review).
2. At the end of the entry form, please upload a **one-page statement** describing why the organization, project, program or individual is deserving of the award in that category. The one-page narrative should include a description of the project, program, organization or individual. If applicable, 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, and **all partners involved**. 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 below.
3. Applicants may also submit up to three pages of additional supporting material (i.e., newspaper articles, photos, awards, testimonials, etc.).
4. Please do not submit any multimedia (e.g. CD or DVD) presentations, as these will not be considered.
5. Entries may be submitted in multiple categories; however, no more than one award will be made to an organization.
6. **A \$150 entry fee must be paid with each submission.**
7. **Organizations/individuals who submit an award must be current HAND members at the time of submission.** If the organization/individual needs to join HAND please contact Trianna Overton at [toverton@handhousing.org](mailto:toverton@handhousing.org).
8. **The intended award recipient must be a current HAND member at the time of submission** (with the exception of the Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend category). If the organization/individual needs to renew their membership or join HAND, the appropriate form can be found Trianna Overton at [toverton@handhousing.org](mailto:toverton@handhousing.org).

9. Self-nominations (Developer of the Year, Best Small Project, and Best Large Project) and nominations by other HAND members (Virginia Peters, Best Housing Partner, Emerging Leader) are encouraged.
10. Prior year winners (2023) are not eligible to receive an award for the same category in 2024.
11. **If there is no contest in a category (less than two entries have been submitted), there will be no award presented.**
12. Winners will be selected by a panel of independent judges familiar with affordable housing development and programs.
13. Winners will be notified ahead of the event and will be required to provide materials suitable for inclusion in the digital program and participate in video production.
14. **All entries must be received electronically via the [application](#) by March 8, 2024 at 5:00 PM EST. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

#### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. Award-winning projects/programs must exemplify an innovative, state of the art response to providing affordable housing and/or support services. Applicants submitting nominations for Developer of the Year, Best Small Project or Best Large Project should address each of the following criteria in their narrative application. 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 or innovative tools 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.
  - g. Inclusion of community life programs that improve the quality of life of the residents of an affordable housing development and/or residents of the surrounding neighborhood.
  - h. Illustrate organization nimbleness and ability to adapt to shifts in economic and market trends.
2. Awards will be made at the discretion of the judges. In the event the judges do not agree, the HAND Board of Directors will make the final decision.

# 2024 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

*IMPORTANT: This is a draft form for your reference.  
All submissions must be completed via the [online application](#) .*

**AWARD CATEGORY:**

**IS THIS A SELF-NOMINATION?**

**ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:**

**ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**PHONE:**

**E-MAIL:**

**NOMINATED PROJECT / PROGRAM / ORGANIZATION / INDIVIDUAL NAME:**

**ADDRESS / LOCATION OF NOMINATED PROJECT:**

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 and **all partners involved**. 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 Close of Business on March 8, 2024. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please contact Susan Ortiz at [sortiz@handhousing.org](mailto:sortiz@handhousing.org) with questions.