



CALL FOR ENTRIES

2020 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HAND's Housing Achievement Awards will be presented at the organization's 29th Annual Meeting & Housing Expo, taking place May 26, 2020 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel & Conference Center in Washington, DC. 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 (Washington, DC/Maryland/Virginia - Baltimore to Hampton Roads). 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 luncheon table and an exhibit space prominently featured in the Expo Hall. Additionally, award recipients will enjoy promotion leading up to the event, features in printed and digital marketing collateral, and other public relations benefits.

2020 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
- President's Choice

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

- 1. Developer of the Year** – recognizes the outstanding overall achievement and impact a developer of affordable housing has made during the 2019 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 (50 units or less)** – recognizes a particular, exemplary small affordable housing development in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region. 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 2019 and in service and available for use by residents by 12/31/2019.
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 50 units)** – recognizes a particular, exemplary large affordable housing development in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region. 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 2019 and in service and available for use by residents by 12/31/2019.

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 “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 local business members.

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 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. **President’s Choice** – 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. This category may or may not be used at the President’s discretion.

Who can submit nominations? Nominations for this category will not be accepted.

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 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, 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 article, 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 \$100 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 renew their membership or join HAND, [the appropriate form can be found online here.](#)
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 & President's Choice category). If the organization/individual needs to renew their membership or join HAND, [the appropriate form can be found online here.](#)
9. Self-nominations (Developer of the Year, Best Small Project, Best Large Project) and nominations by other HAND members (Virginia Peters, Best Housing Partner, Emerging Leader) are encouraged.
10. Prior year winners (2019) are not eligible to receive an award for the same category in 2020.
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 three independent judges familiar with affordable housing development and programs.
13. Winners will be notified by April 3, 2020, and will be required to provide materials suitable for inclusion in the printed program and participate in video production ahead of the Annual Meeting.
14. **All entries must be received electronically via application on www.HANDHousing.org by March 20, 2020 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.

2020 HAND HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

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 20, 2020. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please contact Courtney Battle at 202.384.3764 or cbattle@handhousing.org with questions.