

News Release

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For Immediate Release

NDHFA Expands Champion of Affordable Housing Awards

Bismarck -- The North Dakota Industrial Commission has expanded the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) Champion of Affordable Housing Awards program by adding two new categories: Leadership and Housing Production.

“These new award categories are intended to recognize and celebrate the work of individuals, non-profit or public organizations, and private entities for their efforts in advocating or providing affordable housing in North Dakota,” said Gov. John Hoeven.

“The leadership award will recognize an individual or entity who has demonstrated a history of advocacy for affordable housing or related services,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “The selection criteria will focus on the nominee’s leadership efforts and results in the development of affordable housing.”

“Housing production nominees can be for projects or programs involving rental housing, homeownership, special needs, etc. The housing project or program nominated for this award must have been occupied, placed in service or active during the one-year period prior to November 1, 2001,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “This category will recognize the development, preservation of or conversion to affordable housing, innovative construction or financing techniques, responses to the unique needs of special populations, or the ability to provide information to the public about affordable housing opportunities.”

The awards program began in 1995 with annual presentations to lenders and real estate agents based primarily on loan production within the NDHFA Home Mortgage Finance Program.

Nominations to the leadership and housing production categories are open to individuals, organizations, affordable housing programs, or developments within the state of North Dakota.

Individuals or entities may be nominated in both of these new categories in the same year. In the future, a prior award recipient will be ineligible to receive the same award within the succeeding five-year period. Nominations must be received by Nov. 30. The awards will be presented during the annual statewide Housing Conference on Feb. 7, 2002. Current NDHFA staff and advisory board members are not eligible.

A committee comprised of the lieutenant governor, the presidents of the North Dakota League of Cities and the North Dakota Association of Counties, an NDHFA advisory board member, and the NDHFA executive director will choose the award recipients.

“We sincerely hope with the wide array of potential nominees that these new awards will be held in high regard and be recognized as a coveted award by the affordable housing community,” said Pat S. Fricke, NDHFA executive director. “Parties interested in submitting a nomination for these new categories are encouraged to contact the NDHFA directly or our website for further information and nomination forms.”

For more information about the Champion of Affordable Housing Awards program or to receive a nomination form, contact the Housing Finance Agency directly at (701) 328-8080, 1-800-292-8621, 1-800-366-6888 (TTY) or through the Internet at www.ndhfa.org.

The Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven, as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.