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NAHRO Members Gather in Tampa for Connect 2014: Results for America Conference

Washington, D.C. (July 10, 2014)—Leadership from more than 800 of the nation’s housing authorities and community development corporations will convene in Tampa, Fla. from July 17-19 to address the challenging and rapidly evolving landscape facing the housing and community development (HCD) industry at the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Official’s (NAHRO) annual summer conference.

NAHRO’s summer conference, Connect 2014: Results for America, will provide community developers and housing professionals alike the opportunity to engage with colleagues and learn innovative best practices to serve residents and clients responsibly with the highest level of customer service. The conference will take place at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel at 700 S. Florida Ave.

“Connect 2014: Results for America will not only bring economic opportunity to local businesses located near the City of Tampa’s waterfront area, but the conference will also provide attendees the chance to give back to the Tampa community with their time,” said NAHRO Chief Executive Officer Saul N. Ramirez, Jr. “In addition to our learning and knowledge exchange event, conference attendees will partner with local hunger-relief charity, Feeding America Tampa Bay, to address the growing hunger crisis that affects more than 400,000 low-income families in the Tampa Bay region.”

During the summer meeting, more than 80 NAHRO member agencies will be recognized with the NAHRO Award of Merit for their outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories—Administrative Innovation, Program Innovation in Affordable Housing, Program Innovation in Community Revitalization, Program Innovation in Resident and Client Services, and Project Design. Both the Pinellas County Housing Authority and Tampa Housing Authority will be recognized as Award of Merit winners.

“Since 1989, NAHRO has recognized more than 5,500 housing and community development (HCD) agencies for their ability to meet and exceed the needs of the neighborhoods and families they serve,” said NAHRO President Preston Prince, CME. “Despite the incredible financial challenges the HCD community has been faced with, a total of 187 initiatives have been recognized for their merit for helping to make the communities they serve more sustainable, innovative and visionary.”

The Tampa Housing Authority (THA) will showcase its award-winning housing and revitalization portfolio during a community development tour on Friday, July 18. Properties that will be visited include Encore, THA’s newest completed redevelopment project; Cedar Pointe, the agency’s first smart community, where all residents are required to participate in the self-sufficiency program, and Palm Terrace, a five-star assisted living facility.
Education also is a key component of NAHRO’s three national conferences. Most of the conference sessions are eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs), which count towards NAHRO certifications.

NAHRO, established in 1933, is a membership organization of 23,000 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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