

2023 AGENCY AWARDS OF MERIT

NAHRO at 90: CELEBRATE





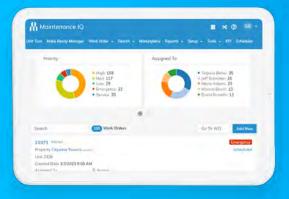
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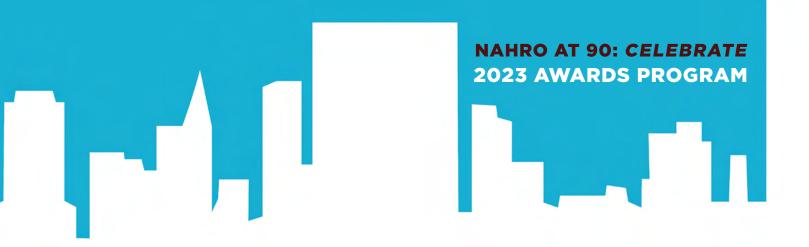


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As NAHRO celebrates its 90th anniversary as the leading affordable housing and community development membership organization, we also commemorate more than 30 years of honoring our member agencies' hard work and innovative solutions via our Awards of Merit program. Congratulations to our Awards of Merit winners — we're proud to honor you and highlight the vital work you do in your communities.

While the need for affordable housing is growing nationwide, solutions will vary according to the community's size, location, and more. With this catalog, we're proud to present 147 winning programs from agencies all over the United States — small, medium, large, rural, urban, and suburban. Member innovations include beautiful new affordable housing developments for seniors, veterans, and others; partnerships with educators, healthcare providers, prospective employers, and other local stakeholders; food drives and neighborhood markets; STEM classes, summer camps, initiatives aimed at closing the digital divide, and many, many more.

All of these award-winning programs are also available online in our Best Practices database: visit www.nahro.org/best-practice.

Again, congratulations to our 2023 NAHRO Awards of Merit winners! Thank you for your dedication, determination, and creativity — and for sharing some of your best work with us.

Patricia Wells NAHRO President

Patricia Wells

Mark Thiele NAHRO CEO

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Note: The award-winning entries have been arranged by category and then alphabetically by state. Award of Excellence nominees and entries from Small/Medium agencies are also noted in the program. Finally, the subject index references the entries' number, not the page number.

[2] ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION

ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION

[1] Landlord Symposium

Due to low voucher utilization rates as a result of Auburn's tight rental market, the Auburn Housing Authority hosted a Landlord Symposium on July 14, 2022. The event aimed to educate, recruit, and retain landlords for Housing Choice Voucher Tenant-Based Voucher Program.

Sharon Tolbert

CEO

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Image courtesy of Auburn Housing Authority



[2] Purpose 2025: FY 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

Purpose 2025: FY 2022-2024 Strategic Plan is the well-devised roadmap for Dothan Housing (DH), a MTW Landlord Incentives Agency. The three-year strategic plan has allowed DH to realistically align its human capital, stated values, organizational principles, demonstrated actions, and housing authority structure. Ultimately, the strategic plan supports the agency's goals of embracing entrepreneurial business practices and transitioning to becoming a housing authority of the future.

Michael Threatt

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Image courtesy of Dothan Housing



[3] Orchard Arms Solar Project

The Orchard Arms Solar Project highlights the Los Angeles County Development Authority's (LACDA) efforts to operate its public housing sites in an environmentally friendly manner. The project involved the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems at its public housing sites, providing not only clean and renewable energy but also lowering resident electricity costs by 30-40%. Additionally, instead of a typical roof installation, LACDA constructed steel carports to support the solar panels removing barriers to routine maintenance.

Ehecatl Lepe

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Los Angeles County Development Authority



[4] HACLA Law Clerk Academy

In 2020, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) established a formal law clerk program in its Legal Department to identify, train, and produce the next generation of legal leaders in the affordable housing industry. Participating law clerks were provided mentoring, and were able to see firsthand the important services HACLA provides the community. Upon completion of the program, the participating clerks became "HACLA alumni," and received information about permanent job opportunities at HACLA. These law clerks are expected to be ambassadors for HACLA for years to come.

James Johnson

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles



[5] Emergency Housing Voucher **Implementation**

After the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) was awarded 515 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) in May 2021, they executed an MOU with the local Continuum of Care to receive eligible referrals and an agreement with other Alameda County PHAs to collaborate, creating referral and portability efficiencies. Other unique, replicable and creative implementation strategies included: an electronic application process for County partners; a "common" application across PHAs for ease of submission; the first publicly available refreshed daily EHV dashboard; expansion of existing incentives for owners; and new incentives for applicants and residents to speed leasing and support residents to achieve stable housing.

Julie Christiansen

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Image courtesy of Oakland Housing Authority



[6] Video Camera Monitoring Center

The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) created the Video Camera Monitoring Center, a central monitoring hub connected to onsite cameras at OHA properties. Each unit contains three separate cameras — allowing for a wide range of vision - and cellular data modem - allowing remote-control capabilities. The monitoring system is a collection of LED display monitors that work as one screen and allows the user to either monitor multiple properties simultaneously or focus on one location. This system

[4] ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION

enables staff to monitor properties in real time and quickly dispatch police, maintenance workers, or other staff.

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Image courtesy of Oakland Housing Authority



[7] Bond Recycling

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is one of the first agencies in the state to partner with the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to recycle tax-exempt Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds, a limited but essential source of financing for affordable housing development. A shortage of these bonds has significantly slowed the production of affordable housing in California. Bond recycling allows for the use of bond capacity that is normally lost, and recycles bonds into a new project, without the use of tax credits. SDHC has successfully recycled more than \$75 million in bonds, awarding them to three developments with more than 700 affordable rental units.

Scott Marshall

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[8] Denver Housing Authority HCV Navigation Services

Opening to the public post-pandemic presented new challenges for the Denver Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Department staff. They needed to respond to increased numbers of in-person visitors as well as respond to e-mails and phone calls. The solution was to amend the check-in process by asking visitors to log into a shared database to provide the purpose for the visit including their cellphone numbers. The shared database allows assigned HCV staff to view the visitor information and assist the front desk by contacting the visitors via their cellphones. Visitors who did not provide cellphone numbers were seen by the receptionist.

Leticia Arnopoulos

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[9] Upgrade of E-Procurement System

Denver Housing Authority's (DHA) previous E-Procurement system did not allow for submission of electronic proposal responses, which became more problematic during the pandemic when offices closed. To address difficulties with vendor participation and receiving competitive pricing in the procurement process, DHA launched a search for another system, and eventually decided on the Rocky Mountain E-Purchasing System (BidNet), which allows for electronic submissions and meets HUD procurement regulations.

Nicole Jiles

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[10] Energy Efficiency Partnership With CEDA

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) partnered with the Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) to replace old and inefficient critical building systems — such as heat and hot water — at CHA buildings in order to optimize operations and decrease energy costs. To fund the \$30 million project, CEDA leveraged federal and state funding to supplement the CHA capital improvement budget.

Matthew Aquilar

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Image courtesy of Chicago Housing Authority



[11] Establishing a DEIB Statement

The Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA) developed a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) statement to bring their vision - cultivating vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods throughout Fort Wayne, where all residents have safe, quality, affordable housing and a high standard of living built on economic self-sufficiency - to life. To do this, FWHA convened a series of strategic meetings and group breakout sessions led by diversity and inclusion experts who incorporated insight and experiences from staff members to help shape the narrative. The DEIB statement was finalized in March 2022, and has helped the team adopt a more holistic approach to combating societal disadvantages at a fundamental level and encouraged employees to leverage shared experiences with clients.

Jessica Matuska

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[12] Website Redesign and **Organizational Rebranding**

The Housing Authority of the City of Greenville (HACG) wanted to successfully market new initiatives that were underway and increase awareness of the available programs and services. Once a vendor was selected, they worked with HACG staff to build a responsive website that addresses ADA accessibility and includes a language translator, photo/video media gallery, search functionality, responsive e-newsletter, and performance report. They also provided a rebranding that included a new logo for HACG, a new motto -"Building Partnerships & Strengthening Communities" - and a new logo for Greenville Housing Development Corporation, the agency's non-profit subsidiary.

Susan Bailey

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Greenville

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[6] ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION

[13] CMHA's Mobility Partnership with Fair Housing Center

After working together for many years, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) and the Fair Housing Center (FHC) began a study in 2016 to assess the mobility of Housing Choice Vouchers in Cuyahoga County. HCVP participants were surveyed about their experiences in the program and the recently published report, "Housing Choice Voucher Mobility in Cuyahoga County", both provided recommendations to expand housing choice and mobility among CMHA's HCVP participants and documented a need for a mobility program in Cuyahoga County.

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[14] Rent Assistance Program

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), working through various grantees of the U.S. Treasury Department's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, administered a rental assistance program that provided 1,318 CMHA residents with \$3,073,469.70 in rental assistance between March 2022 and December 2022. CMHA's program bridged the gap between CMHA residents and the grantees by streamlining the application process, providing hands-on assistance, and ensuring the application was accessible to all.

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[15] Family Self-Sufficiency Homeownership Opportunity

In June 2021, the Parma Public Housing Agency (PPHA), a small PHA, sold its only public housing property in June 2021. The proceeds from this sale were used to expand PPHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Program (with HUD approval) to offer down payment and closing cost assistance associated with a home loan. Although PPHA does not have a homeownership program, the organization developed a strategy focused on enhancing PPHA's FSS program by offering downpayment and closing costs assistance associated with home loans.

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Parma Public Housing Agency



[16] Building Dedications: Main and Resident and Family Services Center

For the first time in 43 years, the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia's Central Office Building underwent significant renovations, featuring energy-efficient systems as well as technology and infrastructure upgrades in all staff offices, conference rooms, and common spaces. Columbia Housing also welcomed the public into its new 10,000 square foot Resident and Family Services Center a few blocks away. The Central Office Building and the new Resident and Family Services Center are both centrally located near two other Columbia Housing developments.

Lee McRoberts

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Columbia





[17] The People's CEO Campaign

The Housing Authority of the City of Columbia's People's CEO Campaign is an ongoing resident and staff engagement project to enhance communications with residents and build trust between the agency's leadership and residents. HUD recently conducted a Housing Subsidy Survey with residents that points to the need for trusted, ongoing dialogue with their respective Public Housing Authority (PHA) leadership. The People's CEO Campaign uses three basic strategies 1) In-Home CEO Visits (with residents and Columbia Housing CEO Yvonda Bean); 2) The Bean Blast, a personal educational e-newsletter to residents; 3) Staff Engagement and Professional Development.

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Columbia



[18] THIS is Columbia Housing

In 2019, the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia experienced a crisis in public trust after two residents died of carbon monoxide poisoning. A barrage of negative press and community distrust followed as the 200+ families were evacuated from the property where the tragedy occurred and temporarily relocated to hotels. As a result, resident, staff, and community relations were strained. Under the slogan "THIS is Columbia Housing" - a robust communication campaign, highlighting "who we are" and "why we do what we do" — nurtured the feeling that the "old" Columbia Housing Authority is behind us, and the "new" agency brings vigor and optimism.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Columbia





[19] Common Ground Cafe

The Common Ground Café was developed to serve as a teaching program for individuals with intellectual disabilities seeking employment opportunities. The impact of the pandemic heavily affected these individuals whose health concerns were at a greater risk, further limiting opportunities. Since the grand opening of the Common Ground Café on June 6th, 2022, three interns have graduated from the program and currently one intern is working in the café with others expected to join soon.

[8] ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services



[20] We Work Smarter Through Innovation

The Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio implemented the following tools across the agency: utilization of iPads for Board Meetings; integration of QR Code on all marketing materials; electronic signature using iPads in offices and drive thru; incorporation of cell phones for office use; online housing applications; electronic payroll check stubs; electronic storage of checks and incoming mail; online housing applications in public housing; electronic briefing packages; 100% direct deposit for Housing Assistance Payments; Secure Sign, an electronic signature via email; electronic inspections; online rent payments; HAP 100% direct deposit; drive-thru transactions and office renovations.

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[21] Request for Rental Change

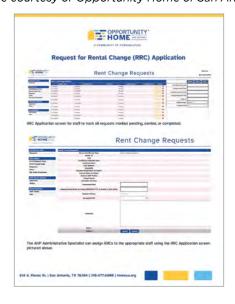
The Request for Rental Change (RRC) Application allows Opportunity Home San Antonio (Opportunity Home) to streamline rent increase requests for landlords, residents, and the staff who handle assisted housing programs. Through this new process, the organization can track essential data regarding rent increases used for SAFMR analysis and historical data tracking. The online system allows staff to efficiently track requests and ensure timely request processing.

Aaron Elizondo

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Opportunity Home of San Antonio



[22] San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Officer Program

Opportunity Home of San Antonio's highly experienced commissioned security SAFFE officers help managers connect and engage with residents to work collaboratively in proactive problem-solving strategies. Unlike the traditional security patrol officers who conduct random patrols, which only produce random results, SAFFE officers are synchronized with crime analyst hot spots to help identify the root cause of the problems and lower the crime rate to address quality of life issues. The result was a higher ratio of proactive initiatives with increased

community support with an increased understanding of the individual roles and responsibilities of each member of the community.

Domingo Ibarra

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[23] Virtual Housing Assistance Specialist Training

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Opportunity Home San Antonio adapted its training methods to implement a comprehensive online curriculum integrating digital tools that allowed new Housing Assistance Specialists (HAS) to participate from home. Leveraging multiple learning styles and communication methods and incorporating training modules from the Google Classroom suite, the agency provided a more user friendly and adaptable program that not only facilitated remote learning, but also positively impacted engagement and retention.

Aaron Elizondo

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Image courtesy of Opportunity Home of San Antonio



[24] Advocacy Mapping Tool

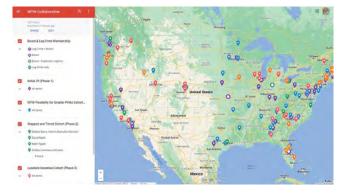
To increase the ease/efficiency of collaborating with fellow MTW-designated housing agencies for advocacy on a federal scale, the Seattle Housing Authority created an interactive mapping tool that shows the locations of each agency across the country and enables users to navigate in a multitude of ways. Users hover over a marked location to identify the housing authority's Executive Director's contact information, congressional representatives and their committees, caucus memberships, and other MTW collaborative membership information.

Demi Reeves

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Image courtesy of Seattle Housing Authority



[25] CodeRED Tenant Alert System

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) launched CodeRED, a new Tenant Alert System that enables SHA to rapidly text, email and call select groups or all residents and voucher participants with urgent and emergency information. Alerts could range from notifying residents of a specific SHA building about an elevator outage, to messages alerting entire communities about a life-threatening situation. The program is for urgent and emergency communications only, not for routine or general business communications from SHA. CodeRED has quickly become a vital communications tool for those hopefully rare times when SHA needs to reach tenants quickly about disruptions, or worse a serious safety or life-threatening incident.

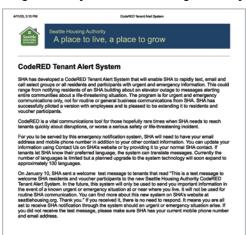
[10] AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Susanna Linse

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Seattle Housing Authority



[26] Emergency Housing Vouchers Implementation

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) was awarded 498 Emergency Housing Vouchers mid-2021 and took an innovative approach to building regional partnerships and implementing administrative efficiencies to prioritize racial equity and move people into housing quickly. This included developing a Uniform Application that could be accepted by all PHAs in the region, implementing pre-inspections and funding in-house housing search services and landlord services. SHA conducted an on-going evaluation of the EHV program implementation to learn from our local Continuum of Care, referral partners, participants and staff and inform our administration of other Special Purpose Voucher programs.

Alice Kimbowa

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Seattle Housing Authority



[27] HCV Housing Quality Standards COVID-19 Recovery Plan

The Seattle Housing Authority's (SHA) Housing Choice Voucher team developed an 18-month HQS COVID-19 Recovery Plan, which ensured that SHA cleared up the backlog of inspections prior to the expiration of HUD's COVID-19 waivers. This proactive approach gave SHA a head start in returning to regular operations of ensuring decent, safe and sanitary housing for our voucher participants.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

[28] Ch'bala Corners

Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Ch'bala Corners is a multi-generational development located in mid-town Anchorage. This is the first of a planned two-phase buildout of the site, comprised of three buildings offering a mix of senior housing and family housing and brings 48 new, affordable rental apartments to the community. Ch'bala is the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina word for spruce tree. Spruce trees were a valuable resource for the Dena'ina, providing food, fuel, building materials for shelter and supporting the animals of the region.

Sezy Gerow-Hanson

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Image courtesy of Cook Inlet Housing Authority



[29] Attracting, Recruiting, and Retaining Landlords with Technology

Dothan Housing (DH) invested in web-based technology to streamline its operations, simplify the inspection process, enhance customer service, and improve communication through the MRI HAPPY software's Assistance Connect Landlord Portal. This has allowed DH to increase landlord engagement and satisfaction through a 24/7 online portal that includes web-based forms, instant message alerts, direct deposit payment information, access to 1099s, and inspection status and rent increase updates. Before DH converted to an online landlord portal, landlords waited on the mail to receive paper checks and inspection or rent increase update letters.

Michael Threatt

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[30] Wiregrass Landlord Tour

The Wiregrass Landlord Tour of 2022 was designed to be a working solution to bridge the gap between Dothan Housing (DH) and landlords within the Wiregrass Metropolitan Area (WMA), namely the counties of Henry, Houston, Coffee, Dale, and Geneva. Attendees learned how to market their properties, lease to Ready to Rent "Certified Renters," how the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program landlord onboarding process worked, and how the new landlord incentives would provide a return on investment (ROI). The tour workshops were facilitated by DH's Landlord Liaison and HQS Inspector and were available to current, former, and potential landlords.

Michael Threatt

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[31] Soluna Apartments

Gorman & Company and the City of Phoenix Housing Department developed Soluna Apartments, a 177-unit affordable and market-rate Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) project designed to improve the Edison-Eastlake Community (EEC), an aged neighborhood located one mile east of downtown. Soluna, a quality mixed-income housing option at an affordable cost, has helped to revitalize the EEC, deconcentrate poverty and instill community pride. Developed in two phases, Soluna represents the first mixed-income development as part of the CNI revitalization efforts ensuring long-term housing affordability. Soluna I and II were developed using 9% and 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, respectively.

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[12] AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Image courtesy of City of Phoenix Housing Department



[32] Buena Esperanza — Permanent Supportive Housing

A prototype for California's \$2.75 billion Homekey program, the City of Anaheim Housing Authority's Buena Esperanza in Anaheim, CA is one of the State's first motel conversion projects, and a pioneer effectively housing people experiencing homelessness. Buena Esperanza is an adaptive reuse of a blighted, two-story former Econo Lodge Motel and Anaheim's first motel conversion under the City's new streamlined entitlement process adopted as a city-wide ordinance. It provides Permanent Supportive Housing for 69 at-risk or formerly homeless residents and is dedicated to serving individuals with mental health conditions and Veterans.

Nadia Martinez

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Image courtesy of City of Anaheim Housing Authority



[33] Sacramento Homekey Program

In order to reduce COVID-19 exposure risk for 5,500 people living on the streets of Sacramento, CA, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency partnered with an affordable housing developer to acquire and convert Woodsprings Suites, a local hotel, into La Mancha permanent supportive housing for 100 formerly homeless individuals. The \$25 million project utilized a \$14.5 million award from the California Homekey Program.

Angela Jones

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Image courtesy of Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency



[34] Mariner's Village Rehabilitation

Using a unique income-averaging approach to apply for low-income housing tax credits, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) worked with its non-profit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), to secure financing and complete the first comprehensive rehabilitation of Mariner's Village in 34 years. This project extended the years of affordability for the 170 deed-restricted affordable rental housing units at Mariner's Village for households with income between 40% and 80% of San Diego's Area Median Income. The rehabilitation upgraded unit interiors as well as exterior areas throughout the property.

Scott Marshall

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[35] Liberty View Apartments

The Housing Authority of the City of Aurora's Liberty View is a new 59-unit building designed specifically for senior veterans. The four-story building includes a community room, library, workout room, laundry facilities, a southern facing patio, and community gardens. Units were carefully designed to feel spacious, uplifting, and dignified and include energy star stainless appliances, solid surface counter tops large pantries, shower benches and handheld fixtures to promote safety and ease of use.

Dayna Ashley-Oehm

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Aurora



[36] Gateway North and Gateway South **Mixed-Income Development**

The Denver Housing Authority leveraged a \$30M HUD Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant into over \$375M of new development replacing obsolete Sun Valley homes with 759 residential units across six multifamily structures. The new households serve residents earning between 20%-100% AMI. The Gateway development was Phase I of redevelopment and consists of 187 residential rental apartments in two six-story multifamily buildings (Gateway North and Gateway South). Gateway North includes six townhomes that offer homeownership opportunities and Gateway South includes Decatur Fresh Market, one of DHA's Critical Community Investments, which was incorporated into the redevelopment under the HUD CNI grant.

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[37] Bear River Cottages Pocket Neighborhood

Bear River Cottages is the first pocket neighborhood in Iowa for homebuyers at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Bear River was developed by the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) in partnership with East Central Development Corporation (ECDC), City of Maquoketa, and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to fill the need for affordable workforce housing in the region. Bear River Cottages created 10 homes for buyers at or below 80% of the Area Median Income, created a tax base on land that sat vacant for years, and created a replicable model for others in the region, state and nationally.

[14] AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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Nominated for Excellence

[38] Sarah's on Sheridan

Sarah's on Sheridan Apartments provides permanent supportive housing to homeless women in Chicago's Uptown community. The new-construction, six-story, multi-use development contains 38 studio units and extends the Chicago Housing Authority's commitment to Chicago's Plan to End Homelessness. Project Based Vouchers (PBV) assist 30 fully-accessible studio units — two units are available for the visually and hearing-impaired.

Matthew Aguilar

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Nominated for Excellence

[39] Access and Opportunity for Senior Housing

The Housing Authority of East Baton Rouge Parish's (EBRPHA) Cypress Pinchback is a 99-unit affordable housing development on the banks of Bayou Fountain in Baton Rouge and fills a gap for quality, affordable housing for seniors 62 years or older. Amenities include a fitness center, meeting room, computer center, garden, trail, educational activities. In case of a hurricane or outage, the local energy company has also committed to providing the entire building with emergency power. A signature property for EBRPHA, Cypress Pinchback was built for \$25M with HUD funds, grants, commercial loans, and tax credits.

April Downs

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[40] Mississippi Region VI RAD, LP

Mississippi Region VI RAD, LP, is a 258-unit acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction development of single and multi-family housing for families and the elderly. The project is scattered on nine sites in six counties within the MRHA6 service area. The final phase, Hickman Heights, is named in honor of MRHA6 Executive Director Dr. Hickman Johnson for his lifetime of service to affordable housing.

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Image courtesy of BGC Advantage/Knight Development



[41] Housing Production Fund

The Housing Production Fund (HPF) provides revolving, low-cost, construction-period financing for the development of affordable, multi-family housing. To establish the HPF, the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) issued \$100M in bonds, and Montgomery County Government committed to pay the principal and interest over 20 years. Loans from the HPF are to be used for construction-period gap financing. After five years, with construction completed and the building stabilized, the development would secure permanent financing to pay back the principal balance of the HPF Loan. As the HPF is replenished every five years, more construction projects can be developed.

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Image courtesy of Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County



[42] Buckeye-Woodhill Choice Neighborhoods Phase 1 and 2 Closings with Creative Gap Financing

In 2022, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and their developer, The Community Builders, Inc., successfully closed the first two development phases of the Buckeye-Woodhill Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan, which will deliver 197 new affordable units. The team navigated historic increases in construction costs, interest rates, and closing complexity by using a financing strategy that leveraged all possible sources while remaining nimble and adaptive throughout the closing process including maximum utilization of the 4% LIHTC with Bond-Gap Financing, the leveraging of multiple local funding sources, and creative use of the RAD program.

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[43] Public-Private Partnership for Pre-development of Carver Park Phase III

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority established a public-private partnership with developer The Finch Group in 2020 to assist in fulfilling CMHA's development plans, primarily redeveloping CMHA's Carver Park property, but also to free CMHA staff to be able to work on multiple projects at once. Using this strategy, CMHA was able to convert 17 properties to RAD as well as finishing construction, obtaining financing and closing five tax credit redevelopments, with The Finch Group taking on the Carver Park Phase III project.

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[44] Successful Completion of a Large-Scale Portfolio-Wide RAD Conversion

Nominated for Excellence

Following completion of the largest portfolio-wide RAD conversion in the nation, the Housing Opportunity Management Enterprises (HOME) is now the largest developer of affordable housing in Texas. HOME was the first public housing authority to complete a portfolio-wide RAD conversion of this scale with a \$1.7 Billion investment at no cost to taxpayers, successfully relocating 20,000 residents, creating 1,800 new units and rehabilitating 4,600 units. The conversion also generated 4,680 jobs, including Section 3 opportunities.

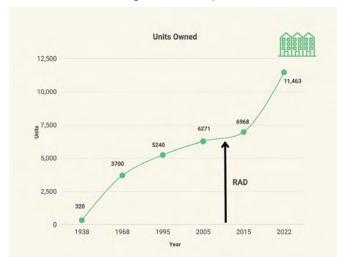
Pamela Soto

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Nominated for Excellence

[16] AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Image courtesy of Housing Opportunity
Management Enterprises



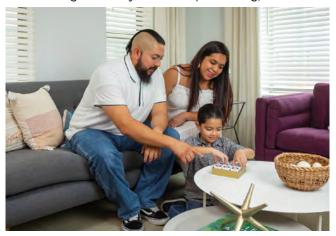
[45] New Hope Housing Avenue J

Avenue J is New Hope Housing (NHH)'s tenth affordable development, offering 100 one- and two-bedroom apartments serving workforce families and individuals in Houston's Historic East End neighborhood. For thirty years, NHH has supported Houston's homeless initiatives, providing affordable, permanent housing and essential support services for more than 13,000 people.

Kayla Semien

Marketing and Communications Manager New Hope Housing, Inc. 3315 Harrisburg Blvd Apt 400 Houston, TX 77003-2466 Phone: (713) 238-9508 Email: marketing@newhopehousing.com Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of New Hope Housing, Inc.



[46] Lake Anne House

The Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development's Lake Anne House opened in September 2022, after nearly a decade of efforts to redevelop a 1970s-era community serving low-income older adults. The 240-unit property serves low-income seniors with incomes at or below 60% AMI. Each resident pays no more than 30% of their income toward their housing costs, including rent and a utility allowance. Lake Anne House exemplifies Fairfax County's commitment to affordable housing, providing opportunities for older adults to age in place safely.

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Image courtesy of Fairfax County Dept. of Housing/ Community Development



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION [17]

[47] Evergreen Commons

The Walla Walla Housing Authority's Evergreen Commons provides permanent supportive housing for 52 individuals and 21 children in 9 one-bedrooms and 20 two-bedroom units. The building features a community room, gathering space on the 2nd and 3rd floors and laundry facilities on each floor for resident use. The first permanent supportive housing built in Walla Walla, Evergreen Commons is located in an established neighborhood and constructed on an infill lot near community amenities.

Renée Rooker

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Image courtesy of Walla Walla Housing Authority



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

[48] The Nave

Cook Inlet Housing Authority's The Nave sits on the traditional and current homelands of the Dena'ina Athabascans, who have been the caretakers of the land, water, plants, and animals of the area for thousands of years. The Nave is open to all and offers the community a place to recognize, honor and promote Alaska Native culture and values. The project was an evolution of a building and the role of community, culture and art in building strong connections, neighborhoods and communities.

Sezy Gerow-Hanson

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Image courtesy of Cook Inlet Housing Authority





[49] Monarch at Chinatown **Mixed-Use Residential and Commercial Space Revitalization**

Fresno Housing Authority's The Monarch at Chinatown is a mixed-use development that includes residential and commercial spaces in the heart of Chinatown in Fresno, CA. This four-story infill development is a zero-net energy affordable workforce housing development providing a total of 57 one-, two- and three-bedroom units, a community room and approximately 4,700 square feet of commercial space.

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[50] Beautifying Collier Gardens Walls

Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing's resident led community project — Beautify Collier Gardens Walls consist of nature-based murals at the end of each wing in the apartment complex, for a total of 10 murals. The goal of this project was to bring color to the walls and create a more inviting and warmer environment for our current and new residents.

[18] COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

Emily Schwartz

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Image courtesy of Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing

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[51] Lakeshore Family Homes, LP

Lakeshore Family Homes, LP is an \$11 million development that includes 45 units of new construction for families in Lake Providence, a Louisiana delta town with fewer than 4,000 residents. This project, a subsidized redevelopment effort between East Carroll Parish Section 8 Public Housing Agency and BGC Advantage/Knight Development, enhances the efforts of the Parish and the town to preserve affordable housing opportunities and revitalize the rural community with an average median household income of \$18,941 in 2020.

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Image courtesy of BGC Advantage/Knight Development



[52] Community Construction Training Pilot Program

The Community Construction Training Pilot Program is a partnership between the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth (Duluth HRA) and Community Action Duluth to provide training in the construction trades. Duluth HRA purchased homes in need of substantial rehabilitation, Community Action recruited participants to train with the construction crew to rehabilitate the homes, which are then sold to low-to-moderate income households. Participants then go on to find full-time, good-paying construction employment.

Jacob Morgan

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Image courtesy of Housing and Redevelopment
Authority of Duluth





[53] Sharswood Grocery Outlet: Forgotten No More

The Philadelphia Housing Authority and its partners fulfilled a promise to Sharswood, a long-forgotten neighborhood, to establish a retail anchor: Sharswood Ridge. This mixed-use development included apartments, including some which were affordable, and retail, including the Sharswood Grocery Outlet, Santander Bank and Everest Urgent Care Center. The grocery not only provided jobs for nearby PHA residents but also brought fresh fruits and veggies, discounted foods and household supplies during a period of rapidly rising inflation. Residents can now walk to the store or take the bus, which stops in front of the complex.

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Philadelphia Housing Authority



[54] On-the-Job Training/ Job Readiness Program

The Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio, Texas, partnered with Middle Rio Grande Development Council in 2021 to create a platform for tenants to learn and develop new workforce skills, with the goal of being job-ready. By providing training, financial education, and a hands-on experience in various departments, program offered participants the opportunity of being hired by the agency, or job placement with other companies.

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[55] Legacy at Alazán

Opportunity Home of San Antonio's Legacy at Alazán is a modern affordable housing development that replaces distressed public housing units with higher quality units, at the same or increased density. This 88-unit development offers 40 public housing units, 40 affordable housing units, and eight market-rate units aimed at residents earning at or below 60% of

AMI. The development includes a four-story elevator building, and two 2-story walk up properties and offers a community and fitness center, activity and community room with a kitchen, a business center and a leasing office.

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Opportunity Home of San Antonio



[56] Hybla Valley Community Center

The Fairfax County Department of Housing/Community Development's award-winning Hybla Valley Community Center (HVCC) opened in April 2022 and is a dynamic hub of activity with programs, services, and opportunities available to a historically underserved community. Evolving from a private, membership-only tennis club, HVCC is part of Fairfax County's revitalization efforts along the Route 1 Corridor of Fairfax County.

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Nominated for Excellence

[20] PROJECT DESIGN

Image courtesy of Fairfax County Dept. of Housing/ Community Development



PROJECT DESIGN

[57] Rosefield Village

In 2022, the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda (AHA) completed the new construction and lease up of the Rosefield Village community, now providing 92 affordable homes for mixed income family households, ranging from 20-80% Area Median Income range. Rosefield Village, once the site of 46 fifties-era modular townhomes, is an intergenerational community with a preference for households that live or work in Alameda. Onsite services provided by AHA's partner, LifeSTEPS including case management counseling and wellness activities.

Vanessa Cooper

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Nominated for Excellence

Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Alameda



[58] Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park Phase 1A

At 120-acres, the Los Angeles County Development Authority's Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park (the Park), is the largest open space in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook located in South Los Angeles, and an integral recreational and community asset. Once the site of an oil storage facility, the Park, and its new event center, have sustainably transformed the urban landscape for this under-served community. For example: The innovative stormwater treatment system allows for water runoff recycling, providing the Park with a sustainable water source.

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Image courtesy of Los Angeles County Development

Authority



[59] Altgeld Family Resource Center

While still a part of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority's 190-acre Altgeld Gardens-Murray Homes is a fairly isolated and self-contained development located as far south as one can go in the city. To revitalize the heart of this community, CHA developed an architectural jewel, the Altgeld Family Resource Center, which serves as a daycare facility and public library.

Matthew Aguilar

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Image courtesy of Chicago Housing Authority



[60] Capitol City Apartments

As part of a RAD conversion, Lansing Housing Commission's (LHC) South Washing Park — a 187-unit, five-story, 50+ year old Public Housing building in the center of Lansing, MI - was renovated and rebranded as the Capital City Apartments. LHC undertook a \$25.5 million LIHTC preservation project, obtained \$13.5 million in tax credits through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Doug Fleming

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Image courtesy of Lansing Housing Commission



[61] Lemington Senior Housing

The former Lemington Home for the Aged was a vacant 35-year-old, four-story, 109-bed nursing home that had been unoccupied since 2005. The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) created a mixed-use development, including 54 units of senior housing fully funded by project-based vouchers (PBV) and a community healthcare space. Through substantive rehab, the Lemington Senior Housing project serves a much-needed affordable senior housing facility, one that functions as a catalyst in revitalizing the neighborhood, generates employment as well as provides healthcare and support services to existing and adjacent communities.

Chuck Rohrer

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Nominated for Excellence Image courtesy of Housing Authority of City of Pittsburgh



[22] PROJECT DESIGN

[62] New Granada Square Apartments

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's (HACP) New Granada Square Apartments (Project) in the Middle Hill District was developed by Hill Community Development Corporation (Hill CDC) in partnership with CHN Housing Partners. The project was selected by HACP via a 2019 Request for Proposal (RFP) for PBV/Gap Financing, started June 2021, and completed on December 31, 2022. The Project has fully executed a PBV HAP Contract.

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[63] The Manton Pathway

The Housing Authority of the City of Providence's (PHA) Manton Heights Pathway is a collaboration among (PHA), Rhode Island Housing, and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. The team transformed an overgrown, unsafe parcel of land into a safe, functional connection for residents of Manton Heights public housing development and other residents of Providence's Olneyville to the Woonasquatucket River Greenway Bike Path for travel, exercise, and recreation. This project was an outcome of the Build Olneyville Plan, resulting from a 2009 Choice Neighborhood Initiative Award, which highlighted the need for infrastructure and housing investments throughout the neighborhood.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Providence



[64] Legacy at Alazán

Legacy at Alazán is a modern affordable housing development that replaces distressed public housing units with higher quality units, at the same or increased density. This 88-multifamily development offers 40 public housing units, 40 affordable housing units, and eight market-rate units aimed at residents earning at or below 60% of area median income. This development's 4-story elevator building and two 2-story walk up offers amenities to include a community center, fitness center, activity room, community room with a kitchen, business center and leasing office.

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Image courtesy of Opportunity Home of San Antonio

Nominated for Excellence



RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[65] Operation CommUNITY

The Auburn Housing Authority hosted its Operation CommUNITY event on October 17, 2022, with the goal of unifying the community and developing new relationships. The event was free, open to the public, and community partners were available and provided helpful information regarding resources, programs, and services. Attendees were able to meet and interact with local public safety and community officials. All enjoyed food, games, fellowship, and the live DJ.

Sharon Tolbert

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Image courtesy of Auburn Housing Authority



[66] Phoenix Housing Department Develops COVID Reopening Plan for Senior Housing Sites

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the emotional toll on Phoenix Housing Department (PHD) senior residents was painfully evident. PHD's Property Management division developed and activated a

multi-tier COVID reopening plan to re-establish specialized services that support the overall well-being of senior residents.

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Image courtesy of City of Phoenix Housing Department



[67] Fresno Housing Community Safety Initiative

The Fresno Housing Authority (FHA) embarked on a Community Safety Initiative that engaged residents residing in the Southwest and Southeast Fresno communities. The initiative targeted 12 properties, 884 units, impacting 2500 residents, half of whom were youth. FHA used a three-phase approach to address the initiative, ranging from a needs assessment survey, data analysis of the assessment, development, and implementation of the Safety Coalition and Community Engagement programs to support this initiative.

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[24] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[68] Strategies to Improved Landlord Satisfaction and Retention

In 2020, the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino formed a Landlord Outreach Committee tasked with identifying, recommending, and implementing strategies to increase landlord participation and overall satisfaction with our rental assistance programs. A Landlord Satisfaction Survey was used to identify motivations, service needs, and possible improvements. Based on the survey results, HACSB revised its leasing processes, increased outreach and education, and developed a Moving to Work landlord incentive activity to provide signing bonuses and damage mitigation. These changes have improved landlord participation in our rental assistance programs.

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Nominated for Excellence

[69] Credit-Building Loan Program

To increase opportunities for self-sufficiency and quality of life for families with low income, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) offered a credit-building loan program in collaboration with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the International Rescue Committee Center for Economic Opportunity. The program consists of a series of installment loans with no interest charges helped borrowers build their credit scores. Offered through the SDHC Achievement Academy, this program enrolled 78 participants, for whom 123 loans totaling more than \$237,000 were disbursed. Half of the participants increased their credit score; 51% increased their net worth; and 45 percent increased their net income.

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[70] Emergency Housing Voucher Program

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) helped eligible families lease rental homes with federal Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) more quickly than many other jurisdictions in California and nationwide, even amid the challenges of a high-cost, low-vacancy rental housing market. SDHC's extensive housing navigation efforts, the payment standards SDHC established through its Choice Communities Initiative, and collaboration with service providers are among the reasons cited in news coverage for SDHC's EHV success.

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[71] Bike Distribution Program

Nominated for Excellence

Denver Housing Authority (DHA) has expanded to include programming focused on physical activity, sustainability, and self-sufficiency. DHA, in collaboration with Bikes Together, a local non-profit, has worked to provide Mariposa residents with free bicycles, helmets, locks, lights, and basic bicycle education. Because of this partnership, 115 residents found a healthy, economical, and sustainable solution to transportation. Through the educational portion of the program, DHA and Bikes Together are empowering residents to be more self-sufficient while living a healthier lifestyle.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[72] Community Connector Toolkit: The Evolutions of the Community Connector Program as a National Model

Denver Housing Authority (DHA) successfully developed a Community Connector Program and corresponding Toolkit. The program began with the need to create outreach methodologies during the redevelopment of DHA's Sun Valley community. With over 33 languages spoken in Sun Valley and many distinct cultures, DHA hired and trained residents to lead outreach efforts in their community and ensure all residents' feedback regarding the neighborhood redevelopment was being heard. The Toolkit shares best practices for hiring, supervising, supporting, growing, and funding Connectors. Equipped with this Toolkit, practitioners in a variety of settings can learn to launch and sustain Connector programs.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[73] COVID Photovoice Project: Documenting the Pandemic in DHA's Sun Valley Community through Photovoice

This project examined how people experienced life through the COVID pandemic, focusing on residents of Sun Valley in Denver. Using photo-voice techniques, the Denver Housing Authority documented hardships and events that residents experienced during quarantine. Families were provided with cameras and captured images of COVID's impact on their lives and community. Interviews were conducted following quarantine to document the significance of their photographs. Residents' narratives reveal the ways COVID affected people's lives at a personal and collective scale and highlight how community support, services, and infrastructure are necessary to ensure residents can both survive and overcome public health crises.

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Nominated for Excellence

[26] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[74] Decatur Fresh Market

Through Choice Neighborhoods in Denver's Sun Valley neighborhood, the Denver Housing Authority (DHA) created a unique fresh foods market in a former food desert. Decatur Fresh Market opened in November 2021 on the ground floor of DHA's first housing phase in the Sun Valley redevelopment. In addition to becoming the community's main grocery store, it has transformed into a bustling hub of activity for residents, youth, and drop-ins looking for a cup of coffee or that hard-to-find, international food item. Through strategic planning, DHA has not only established access to fresh foods, but has also honored residents' ethnic diversity and has created new job opportunities for residents.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[75] Financial Coach Collaborative

Many of the 12,000+ households at the Denver Housing Authority (DHA) make on average less than \$10,000 per year. Thanks to support from Wells Fargo, Denver's Office of Financial Empowerment and Protection, US Bank, Bank of America, BOK Financial, Key Bank, PNC Bank, Pacific Western, and Friends of DHA, our new Financial Coach Collaborative program provides one-on-one coaching and financial education classes to both public housing and housing choice voucher residents. This program focuses on helping individuals meet goals such as creating a budget, opening bank accounts, increasing savings, decreasing debt, and increasing credit scores.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[76] Food Distribution and Nutrition Education for Youth and Families (HFDK)

The Denver Housing Authority (DHA), in partnership with its non-profit arm Youth Employment Academy (YEA), addressed food insecurity in Southwest Denver through education, food distribution, and youth leadership in horticulture. YEA provided healthy cooking and nutrition classes for families, distributed healthy snacks to youth, and created an "Edible Artscapes" project in one of DHA's public housing neighborhoods. By strengthening families' capacity to identify, eat, and cook healthy meals with fresh ingredients and make empowered healthy decisions about their diets/eating habits at an early age, the program aids

in promoting a healthy lifestyle for low-income youth and their families.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[77] Housing Business Professional Academy

The Academies to Work (ATW) program was implemented by the Denver Housing Authority (DHA) in 2014 to offer integrated education and employment services. Recently, the ATW program collaborated with the Housing Management and Housing Choice Voucher departments within DHA to create a Housing Business Professional Academy. The ATW team built this program to prepare participants for a career with DHA. Hiring is a challenge for most companies, so preparing DHA residents for open positions can help alleviate the staff shortage for DHA and create career opportunities for residents within their own neighborhoods. This program has already led to 18 resident graduates being hired by DHA.

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Image courtesy of Denver Housing Authority



[78] Employment Training Development and Empowerment Program

The Bristol Housing Authority partnered with BristolWORKS!, a local agency that provides free job and employment training to residents of Bristol, Connecticut. Their collaborative workforce development training center provides individuals with skills, certifications and job-placement services to obtain employment quickly and allow its students the opportunity to continue with advanced programs. This collaboration aims to equip BHA residents with the necessary skills and resources to secure stable, well-paying jobs and ultimately achieve self-sufficiency.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Bristol



[28] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[79] Self-Sufficiency and Early Childhood Development Program

The Bristol Housing Authority (BHA) Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Coordinator serves on the School Readiness Council, which oversees early child development programs in Bristol, Connecticut. In addition to attending regularly scheduled monthly meetings, BHA hosted a workshop that brought together representatives from various early childhood agencies and programs to ensure families and children have the necessary resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

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[80] New Britain CARES — Collaborating Actively on Resident Empowerment and Success

The Housing Authority of the City of New Britain created New Britain CARES - Collaborating Actively on Resident Empowerment and Success, a four-part endeavor that allows various community partners (including job coaches, a community college, a bank, childcare providers and other local agencies) to collaborate on and coordinate services to residents that they might otherwise serve independently. Part 1, Passport for Success, was a previous Award of Merit winner, but its in-person component was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once infection rates slowed, while the website and mobile app were being built, NBHA held a series of successful "warm handoff" and "case management" conferences that helped 34 ROSS Program participants in multiple ways, including helping individuals graduate high school, get approved for a secured credit card, and other achievements that increased their financial stability and independence.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of New Britain



[81] Family Self Sufficiency and Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Programs

The Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland's Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program works in concert with the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program as a joint collaborative assisting families with homeownership opportunities. The initiative uses the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) "Your Money, Your Goals - A Financial Empowerment" toolkit model to help families gain the knowledge and skills they need for financial independence.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland



[82] HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program

Lakeland Housing Authority manages a HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which pairs Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program. This partnership involves case management, and supportive services for homeless Veterans. These services are designed to help homeless veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing and access the health care, mental health treatment, substance use counseling, and other supportive services, necessary to help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community.

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[83] Partnership with Dept of IRS-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland, Florida (LHA) has been approved as a certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, under the auspices of the Department of Internal Revenue Services (IRS). LHA has 14 staff serving as volunteer tax preparers to provide free tax services to public housing residents, HCV tenants and low-moderate-income families. The LHA VITA Site has met 100% of the Quality Site Requirements.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland



[84] Renaissance Medical Clinic with UniHealth Primary Care

The Housing Lakeland Housing Authority of Lakeland, Florida (LHA), in partnership with UniHealth Primary Care, developed a medical clinic at the Renaissance located at 150 W 14th Street, Lakeland, Florida. This medical facility provides services to 78 residents and is open to all associated seniors. Primary care services provided include management of acute (new) and chronic (old) illness, hypertension, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, hypothyroidism, mammography, menopause and more.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland



[30] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[85] EFFORTS Scholarship

The Tampa Housing Authority created the EFFORTS Scholarship Program as a way to support the educational dreams of young adults in public housing, RAD and Section 8 housing, and to help them gain economic independence and self-sufficiency. The program is directed to high school seniors and undergraduate freshman students enrolled in the semester following the scholarship award (ages 16-19). In November 2022, four winners were selected from 20 applicants. THA partner vTECH IO, a subsidiary of Dell, also provided laptops to the winners.

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[86] Healthy Homes

The Tampa Housing Authority (THA) implemented the Healthy Homes initiative at the JL Young Apartments in July 2022 to help seniors who may be struggling with essential indoor tasks and chores. With a combination of regular outreach, bilingual communications via door-to-door fliers and social media, cleaning supply raffles, and a contractor who provides unit cleaning and education, the Healthy Homes initiative helps seniors keep their homes clean and helps THA save on work orders.

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[87] Oaks at Riverview Community Garden

The Tampa Housing Authority (THA) received a \$100,000 grant from Super Bowl Host Committee, TEGNA Foundation and 10 Tampa Bay to develop a garden at Oaks of Riverview Community Center (ORCC) and provide the youth with knowledge and skills to cultivate and harvest their own organic food. The project has been a success, providing healthy organic food to residents and bringing community

members closer — both seniors and youth have been working together in the garden.

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[88] Santa's Workshop

Tampa Housing Authority (THA) and the Tampa Police Department (TPD) collaborated to expand the annual Santa's Workshop, an annual event at the Oaks at Riverview Community Center. TPD worked to collect presents throughout the year, with community partners Rise Tampa, Toys for Tots, Kids Wish Network, New York Yankees Foundation to collect gifts. In 2022, the event served more than 200 youth and their families with gift bags and age-appropriate toys, as well as a bicycle raffle.

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[89] Resident Services Outstanding Scholars

Resident Services Corporation (RSC), a non-profit affiliate of the Housing Authority of DeKalb County, enhances the lives of the local community by providing targeted and collaborative initiatives that promote resilience factors to help participants from youth to seniors overcome key challenges. RSC initiatives, including Youth and Senior Services further our agency's mission of "providing sustainable and affordable housing as a platform to enhance lives." RSC offered enhanced community-based resident services to more than 700 residents at four senior and active adult properties, introduced 40 new programs and added 22 new partners, offered weekly transportation services to more than 800 residents at five senior and active adult communities, and assisted 110 at-risk youth participants.

Dacia Dickey Bey

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[90] HACC Credit Building Program

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) began the HACC Credit Building Program for HACC participants to not only obtain critical financial education, but to create opportunities to increase access to economic opportunities, employment, affordable housing, and homeownership. HACC partnered with local banking institutions and community organizations to offer no-cost virtual and in-person workshops to more than 100 HACC participants. About 75% of registered households attended each workshop, five households received tenant readiness/credit repair assistance and obtained housing, three households increased their credit scores by more than 100 points and one participant achieved her goal of homeownership after six months in the program.

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[91] HACC Financial Literacy Initiative

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) began the HACC Financial Literacy Initiative for HACC participants to not only obtain financial education, but to create economic opportunities, eliminate barriers to access affordable housing, and pursue homeownership. HACC partnered with local banking institutions, community organizations, and realtor companies to provide no-cost virtual and in-person services to HACC participants in order to meet their needs.

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[92] HACC Homeownership Initiative

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) began the HACC Homeownership Initiative to create

opportunities for HACC participants to pursue affordable homeownership. To provide this unique opportunity HACC partnered with local banking institutions, community organizations, and Realtor companies to provide virtual and in-person services to HACC participants in order to help them pursue homeownership. Additionally, HACC participants who meet the eligibility requirements and receive pre-approval for a mortgage from a lender, can apply for a second mortgage up to \$20,000 from HACC.

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[93] HACC Landlord Incentives Program

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) developed the Landlord Incentives Program to increase housing opportunities for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants. Through increasing these opportunities, it will assist in disseminating the concentration of voucher recipients in low income or impoverished areas, retaining existing landlords and recruiting new landlords. Available landlord incentives include Vacancy Payments, First-Time Landlords and High Opportunity Areas.

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[94] HACC Landlord Lunch & Learn Program

The Housing Authority of Champaign (HACC) implemented the Landlord Lunch & Learn Program in 2020, shortly before the COVID 19 pandemic began. The program's goal is to supply landlords with the facts of how the Moving to Work Housing Choice Voucher (MTW HCV) Program works, clear up any confusion current landlords may have, and to recruit new landlords. HACC hopes, in turn, these landlords will house more low-income families, giving them the tools to be self-sufficient.

[32] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

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[95] HACC Nutrition Education Program

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) added the Nutrition Education Program to the diverse workshop and training options offered to residents in fall 2021. The program educates participants about dietary techniques to address the poor health conditions that are typical for low-income families such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, obesity, and chronic stress, which also result in higher rates of disability and mortality.

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[96] HACC Project Safe Community

Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) initiated the Project Safe Community in response to the increased crime and gun violence in the area. To combat these issues, HACC partnered with local police to navigate current policing policies and best implementation to meet the needs of the people. HACC also created programs and workshops at one of its properties located in an area where crime and gun violence was prevalent. This site doubled as a resource hub where individuals could obtain information regarding mental health counseling, domestic violence, job training and employment opportunities. Lastly, HACC secured funding to provide residents with a video doorbell and monitoring services at no cost to them.

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[97] HACC Supportive Services Initiative

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) began the HACC Supportive Services Initiative to aid HACC participants and applicants to secure affordable housing, pursue higher education, and employment opportunities. To provide this unique opportunity, HACC secured funding through the Champaign County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Using this funding, HACC participants were able to overcome barriers that previously seemed unsurmountable and effectively bridging the gap between economic inequality and securing affordable housing. This initiative has also allowed HACC participants to have greater access to activities to pursue economic self-sufficiency.

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[98] Illinois Commitment Student Voucher Program

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) developed the Illinois Commitment Student Voucher Program in an effort to eliminate barriers hindering access to education for low-income families. HACC established a partnership with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus to provide housing vouchers for students that have been accepted into an undergraduate studies program through the Illinois Commitment, a financial aid package that provides scholarships and grants to cover tuition and campus fees for UIUC students who are Illinois residents aged 17-24 and have a family income of \$67,100 or less.

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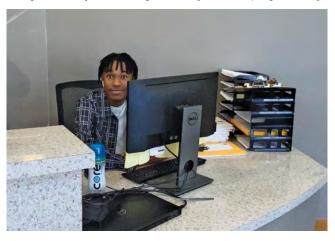
[99] YouthBuild Bright Futures Internship Program

Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) and YouthBuild both have an interest in promoting affordable housing in Champaign County. YouthBuild's mission is also to provide education and career training for at-risk young adults. Both organizations developed an internship program for graduates at HACC's affordable housing locations in Champaign County. HACC hopes to use the internship program to get needed property management and maintenance work done while providing valuable hands-on job training experience for YouthBuild trainees to hire into entrylevel office support position, custodial, and property maintenance positions as they become available.

Shevone Myrick

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of Champaign County



[100] YouthBuild Food Pantry

The Housing Authority of Champaign County's (HACC) YouthBuild is a construction, pre-apprentice-ship program for local youth high school dropouts to earn their diplomas, construction certifications, and achieve their career goals. In response to the food insecurity needs expressed by students within the YouthBuild program, HACC created a free partner-ship in January 2022 with a local food bank to provide

non-perishable food items during operating hours. Furthermore, the YouthBuild program was able to utilize the food pantry by expanding programming into the culinary arts pathway towards career success.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of Champaign County



[101] Opening New Doors

Working in partnership with ComWell, a Community Wellness Agency, the Randolph County Housing Authority developed an innovative program which was designed to improve housing access and outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) within in its service area. The Opening New Doors Program resulted in expanded housing opportunities and supportive services for individuals with IDD, while also allowing them to make informed decisions about where and with whom they choose to live.

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Small/Medium Agency

[34] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[102] Learn and Earn: Career Connections

The Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Learn and Earn: Career Connections (LECC) program closes the achievement gap and COVID-19-related academic learning loss by addressing math and reading skills that low-income students lose in the summer. LECC is a paid summer opportunity for CHA youth, ages 13-15, offering meals, meaningful academic support and career development. LECC participants select career tracks that include coding, entrepreneurship, healthcare and more. In 2020, LECC switched to a virtual model that allowed youth to explore career fields, sharpen math and reading skills and earn money. Today, LECC uses a hybrid model with in-person and remote options.

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[103] Wellness and Telehealth Room

Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing, formerly known as Winnebago County Housing Authority, built and equipped a private, safe space for residents to meet with their healthcare providers via telehealth and in person. Most of the residents lack the necessary computer skills to be able to do this on their own, in their own living spaces, and less than 50% of the residents possess a valid driver's license or a vehicle.

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Image courtesy of Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing



[104] Broadband: Affordable Connectivity Program

Adopting the Affordable Connectivity Program for its own residents, the Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA) educated community members about the low- or no-cost internet service, but also helps them to enroll, bridging the digital divide.

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[105] Device Advice and Other Classes in Partnership with Allen County Public Library

The Fort Wayne Housing Authority conducted a tablet giveaway program to provide seniors with tablets they could use to accomplish many daily tasks online especially during the pandemic. Building upon that program, FWHA also established a partnership with the Allen County Public Library to ensure seniors and disabled citizens are not left behind by teaching them how to best leverage technology to enhance their lives.

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RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES [35]

[106] Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL)

The Healthy Eating Active Living program began as a simple cooking class promoting healthy eating and addressing the needs of communities with food deserts and lack of nutrition education. It was intended for adults, but the Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA) discovered that many children were interested in learning firsthand how their lives could be improved by adopting healthier lifestyles. FWHA expanded the classes to include children, providing not only the gift of knowledge, but also the ability to prepare simple, healthy foods, and contribute to their families' wellbeing.

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[107] Promoting Water Safety with the Jorgensen YMCA

Drowning is a leading cause of death for all American children, but research shows ethnic minorities are at greater risk of drowning for various reasons, including lack of access to water safety education. Recognizing Fort Wayne Housing Authority's (FWHA) children were in danger living near the state's many lakes, ponds, rivers, the FWHA teamed up with the Jorgenson YMCA to offer free water safety courses to families in their communities. Every child who completed the program was equipped with basic water survival skills, making a direct impact on the disproportionately high number of children in the area who were unable to swim.

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[108] Read, Art, Brain Smart Summer Camp

The Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA) established the Read, Art, Brain Smart Summer Camp to fill the gap between the school year with fun, engaging and educational activities that stimulated learning throughout the summer months. This initiative was designed to combat summer learning loss, summer setback, or summer slide, which affects approximately 52% of students — the most vulnerable children, including those from low-income families and with limited parental availability and skill, are at even higher risk.

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[109] Building Stronger Families

The Alexandria Housing Authority partnered with United Way of Central Louisiana and 13 community-based partners to offer Building Stronger Families, an instructional program designed to provide opportunity for families to grow and become financially empowered. The program consists of 10 skill building courses that meet every other Thursday, providing guidance, instruction, and resources to help families improve in the areas of financial stability, education, and health. The goal of the Stronger Families program is to provide a hand-up in the areas in which families want to see improvement by preparing children for school, obtaining a degree, increasing savings, or buying a home.

Megan Joiner

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Image courtesy of Alexandria Housing Authority



[36] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[110] Lift Zone

As part of the Inkster Housing Commission's (IHC) ongoing commitment to help connect underserved families use the Internet to fully participate in educational opportunities and the digital economy, it opened a free, WiFi-connected "Lift Zone" in its Simmons Center community building. This LiftZone helps students who, for a variety of reasons (including homelessness or housing insecurity issues), need somewhere to go during the day to participate in distance learning.

Charlotte Coachman

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[111] Radon Awareness

The Inkster Housing Commission provided radon mitigation for all their apartment developments with funding provided through HUD's new Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration Program for public housing agencies.

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[112] **SOOAR**

The Inkster Housing Commission partnered with Strategies to Overcome Obstacles and Avoid Recidivism (SOOAR), a 501c3 nonprofit corporation and a licensed Community Awareness Information and Training (CAIT) Provider by the State of Michigan to provide prevention, life skills, harm reduction, and community mobilization services to remove barriers and improve quality of life for IHC residents.

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Image courtesy of Inkster Housing Commission



[113] Senior Food Boxes

During the pandemic, delivery of food boxes to many of Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro's (HACG) senior residents stopped, and the seniors were not able to pick up the food themselves. HACG staff reached out to all qualified residents and to the local food bank and began delivering the boxes to the senior residents on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Currently, 125 senior residents receive monthly food boxes.

Ayisha Razzak-Ellis

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[114] Senior Transportation Services

The Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro staff created a senior transportation program that offers free rides door-to-door for residents living within our housing communities who are 55 years or older.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro



[115] Teen Advisory Board

The Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro created a Teen Advisory Board that allows public housing residents ages 13-17 to meet bi-monthly with staff to discuss their ideas, concerns, and needs to be successful in school and life in general.

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[116] Molding Kids for Success

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Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) teamed up with Core Technology, a locally based global company that produces plastic injected molded products to create "Molding Kids for Success," a week-long summer camp for GHA's middle school residents to educate youth about potential STEM career paths by combining classroom experiments with real-world applications on the manufacturing floor.

Maggie Larkins

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[117] The System of Healthy Living

The City of Greensboro was repeatedly listed among the nation's 10 most food-insecure cities, which led Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) to create the "System of Healthy Living," a holistic approach to wellness where GHA provides food-insecure residents with weekly meals. Just as importantly, this system also delivers nutrition and food cultivation education to encourage a lifestyle of health.

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Image courtesy of Greensboro Housing Authority



[38] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[118] ACHIEVE GreatER — Addressing Cardiometabolic Health Inequities by Early Prevention

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) residents and researchers at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and University Hospitals are leading a multi-organizational effort to address cardiovascular health disparities, thanks to a new "transformative" \$18.2 million federal grant from the National Institutes of Health. CMHA will coordinate health events across housing projects in Cleveland to identify patients with disparate health and needs. The ultimate goal of ACHIEVE GreatER is to reduce cardiovascular complications and hospitalizations by improving blood pressure, lipids and glucose targets for Black patients at risk of heart health issues.

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Image courtesy of Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority



[119] Advancing Community Employment Program

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority's (CMHA) Advancing Community Employment (ACE) program fosters local economic development, promotes workforce development and ensures compliance with HUD Section 3 policy. The ACE program replaces the Lower Income Project Area Resident Participation program, which had been designed to connect residents with employment opportunities

as the agency repaired properties and provides a readily accessible approach to comply with HUD's 2020 changes to Section 3. It goes beyond the basic requirements of Section 3 by providing contractors and resident workers with direct access to staff who are knowledgeable about Section 3 and who facilitate opportunities to connect contractors with eligible workers.

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[120] NBA All-Star Game Festivities and Vaccine Clinics at Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

Nominated for Excellence

The City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to encourage residents to take part in the various vaccine clinics that were held all over the city in conjunction with the NBA All-Star Game festivities in February 2022.

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Image courtesy of Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority



[121] Senior Build a Basket Program

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) began the Senior Build a Baskets program 10 years ago

to bring seniors together for the holiday season to socialize and receive holiday baskets filled with treats. To this day, the program helps to reduce isolation, depression and loneliness during the holiday season.

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Image courtesy of Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority



[122] Lending Libraries

After reaching out to HUD for guidance about the Book Rich Environment initiative, the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver set about creating take-a-bookand-leave-a-book libraries for their communities. The Beaver County Times donated old newspaper stands to build the libraries, and the Beaver County Career and Technology Center's carpentry and art students created library prototypes. The Chippewa Library Branch and St. Monica's Catholic Academy held a book drive that resulted in more than 3,000 books; HACB employees and other agencies donated more than 1,000 books. Volunteers, including a retired librarian, sorted each book by the Dewey decimal system, and a lending library was installed at Harmony Dwellings in November 2022. Two more libraries are on their way to two additional sites.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the County of Beaver



[123] Feeding Our Families

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie partnered with organizations to create four food distribution and after-school snack and meal sites at four of their properties. At the John Horan Garden apartments, 389 families are registered for monthly food distribution, and approximately 100 youth receive after-school snacks and/or dinner. The Eastbrook Apartments site has more than 70 families visiting the food bank monthly. At Friendship Apartments, food drop offs serve 35-40 residents, and the Erie Food Co-op provides residents with free memberships. At Schmid Tower/Ostro and Curry Schnell Apartments, Second Harvest Food Bank delivers monthly boxes to approximately 40 residents and Lake Erie Food Rescue delivers weekly ready-made food items and fresh produce for about 50 residents a week.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Erie



[40] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[124] Virtual Parenting Classes

In 2022, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) successfully launched the first virtual parenting class aimed at providing our residents with the necessary resources and support to bridge the above gaps improve their parenting skills and enhance their children's development. HACP provided participating parents with tablets, allowing them to access the classes from anywhere and to watch recordings of the classes on their own time, developed and implemented the classes, paid facilitators including licensed psychologists, social workers and early childhood development specialists, and supplied gift vouchers as incentives for participants.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh



[125] Community Pet Day

Lincoln Housing Authority recognizes the positive effects of pet ownership among residents. So, to help residents who were having difficulties finding food for their pets, LHA partnered with Vintage Pet Rescue on a LHA Community Pet Day where pet owners were able to access a day of free grooming, veterinary technicians, pet toys and food. The program provided support to more than 30 residents and their animals, and transformed into a monthly delivery of the Kibble Kart when residents need assistance.

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[126] Health is Wealth Initiative

Lincoln Housing Authority (LHC) wishes to ensure residents have the tools to age in place safely, and the results of an agency-wide residential survey confirmed LHC residents wanted a focus on health. With the survey feedback, LHA created the Health is Wealth initiative, which includes weekly fitness classes geared to all levels, monthly blood pressure screenings, an onsite flu clinic and in-home flu shots for those who are homebound, and more. Blue Cross Blue Shield provides all programs free of charge to all LHA residents, even those without BCBS coverage.

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Small/Medium Agency

[127] "Gaining Your Independence" Exercise Classes at Donovan Manor

A collaborative effort between the Hi-Lo Neighborhood (Resident) Association, the Newport Housing Authority and the Edward King House Senior

RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES [41]

Center of Newport brought exercise classes to the Wellness Center at the Housing Authority's Donovan Manor housing community. The program, entitled "Gaining Your Independence", focused on helping Newport Housing Authority residents improve their physical and mental abilities, thereby enabling them to age in place. The program has improved the lives of multiple residents.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Newport



[128] Cyber-Seniors

Newport Housing Authority, through a partnership with the University of RI (URI), the Edward King House Sr. Center, the Newport Residents Council, and the Hi Lo Neighborhood Association participated in URI's pilot program for an equity project called "Cyber-Seniors" targeted to minoritized populations to ensure device access, internet, and support to promote social and economic equity. Housing authority participants received free iPads, hotspots with service for one year, and URI student mentors to provide technology support for digital competence.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Newport



[129] Digital Equity for Seniors through **Broadband at Donovan Manor**

Newport Housing Authority, in partnership with the Hi-Lo Neighborhood (resident) Association and OSHEAN, Inc. pursued a digital equity initiative bringing free, high-speed, reliable broadband to residents, including essential infrastructure--the installation of fiber optic cable underground and pulled directly into the elderly high-rise building. The result: more than 100 elderly and disabled residents are being provided with free, high-speed, reliable broadband.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Newport



[42] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

[130] Food Donation Connection Program

The Newport Housing Authority and the Hi-Lo Neighborhood Association, a non-profit partner whose core mission is creating a caring and compassionate community among housing authority residents, are working with the Food Donation Connection to help feed residents. FDC identified a local restaurant chain that donates food weekly, enabling Hi-Lo to deliver a satisfying dinner to as many as 40 residents with no cost or effort. This partnership is helping to reduce food insecurity by providing free food for residents.

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[131] Holiday Dinner and Theater with Salve **Regina University**

The Newport Housing Authority (NHA) and the Hi-Lo Neighborhood (Resident) Association, in partnership with Salve Regina University, collaborated to offer meaningful opportunities to enrich the lives of NHA residents. The students hosted holiday dinners with live theater performances to the delight of the residents. It is a wonderful testament that local students care about their neighborhoods and are working to make the public housing community a creative and engaging place to live.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Newport



[132] Clinical Nursing Students through Salve Regina University — Newport, RI

Through the Housing Authority and Hi Lo's Partnership with Salve Regina University's Clinical Nursing program, students come to Donovan Manor weekly as part of their clinical training. Residents engage with the students in one-on-one sessions to discuss their medical concerns and receive screening and advice. Nursing students gain valuable experience in gerontology and can see the daily health issues that residents face. The Donovan Manor residents feel a sense of purpose in helping these young people reach their goals, and the students achieve their goals of learning in a clinical setting and helping older people who have many health challenges.

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[133] Senior Care Pace

The Housing Authority of the City of Columbia implemented Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to provide all-inclusive health care for the elderly in their homes and other accessible locations. This helps senior residents remain independent within their communities, improves their overall quality of life, and eliminates barriers for quality health care.

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[134] Summer Youth Employment Program

The Columbia Housing Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) hired 26 youth aged 14-19, providing them with training and work experience, and exposing them to the daily operations of the housing authority. They also participated in interactive workshops with career professionals including military personnel, financial literacy training campus tours and community service projects. Students received much more than a paycheck - they also took home life-changing experiences and lessons.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Columbia



[135] Free Legal Aid

The Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services, Free Legal Aid program provided legal representation in court actions seeking eviction, advice and counseling regarding housing problems, assistance to a person facing pending, potential or threats of legal action regarding their home, community education programs to inform residents of legal rights, case management to navigate community resources, applying for rental assistance to local agencies on behalf of clients, and coordination between local agencies offering other forms of housing assistance. These services were provided without cost to lowand middle-income Clarksville residents to prevent an increase in homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Image courtesy of Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services



[136] Increasing Access to Care Program

The City of Clarksville awarded Matthew Walker Health Clinic \$300,000 of CDBG-CV funding to administer the Increasing Access to Care program. The Programs aim was to provide healthcare access to homeless individuals who could not afford being tested or treated for COVID-19. The program also provided primary, oral and behavioral health care in an attempt at reducing demand for emergency medical services. At the program's completion, 460 patients were able to be served with approximately 830 medical visits.

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Image courtesy of Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services



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[137] Chalmers Courts Renovation

When the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) decided to renovate the 80-year-old Chalmers Courts in East Austin, it was about more than just expanding the number of housing units. It was a community-driven effort to revitalize an entire neighborhood struggling with the pressures of affordability and gentrification. Working closely with residents and stakeholders—and relying on a combination of innovative financing, community partnerships, and creative problem-solving—HACA built 398 new homes and created unprecedented spaces for healthcare clinics, educational facilities, and social services to empower a traditionally underserved low-income community and persons of color.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Austin



[138] Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative

In the wake of the pandemic, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's elevated its commitment to resident health by launching the Community Health Worker Initiative in our housing communities. HACA's Community Health Workers had become a frontline of public health for HACA families. As current or former HACA residents, they understand the values, backgrounds, and socio-economic circumstances of our

residents, and foster trust and understanding —which in turn creates opportunities for better wellness outcomes. Through outreach, education, counseling, and advocacy they are improving residents' health knowledge and behaviors.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Austin



[139] Family Self-Sufficiency Program

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is an employment and savings incentive program for low-income families with Section 8 vouchers that allows Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing residents to build financial assets as the household increases earned income from wages. Over the past five years, the Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio has had eleven families graduate from the program. After two years in the program, one resident graduated in 2022 and is currently a full-time home health provider in the city of Del Rio.

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RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES [45]

Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio



[140] Back to School Event at Market Days

The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) partnered with the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation (HAHC), the Harlingen Downtown District and several social services agencies to address lack of school supplies for the children in our communities. Staff members, community leaders, and volunteers distributed backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons and other supplies.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Harlingen

Back to School Event at Market Days









Cricket Wireless - School supplies IDEA Public School - School Supplies HHA - BRE book give

[141] COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in **Public Housing**

The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) partnered with Su Clinica Familiar, the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation, the County of Cameron and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide COVID-19 vaccines. The clinics taught the residents the facts about the illness and how to best protect themselves and their family in a time of pandemic and crisis.

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Image courtesy of Housing Authority of the City of Harlingen

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Public Housing











[142] Opportunity Home San Antonio — **Book Rich Environments (BRE)**

Book Rich Environments (BRE) is a tri-sector collaboration between nonprofit organizations, national government agencies, and corporate publishers that connects families living in public housing communities with reading-related resources and works to improve opportunities and outcomes for public

[46] RESIDENT AND CLIENT SERVICES

housing residents. Opportunity Home San Antonio established local partnerships with the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL), San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), non-profit organizations, early childhood development programs, and literacy programs to assist with providing books and other related resources.

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[143] Sherwin-Williams' HomeWork **Training Program**

Opportunity Home San Antonio's Jobs Plus program partnered with Sherwin-Williams and Building Talent Foundation to offer two cohorts of residents the opportunity to learn commercial painting techniques through the Sherwin-Williams' HomeWork Training Program. This week-long training program was offered exclusively to Opportunity Home residents and participants and provided classroom instruction along with hands-on training. Residents who participated in the training program earned a Renovate, Repair and Painting Certificate and received painting supplies. Graduates were connected with employers immediately hiring skilled painters at a job fair that was held during their graduation ceremony.

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[144] Partners In Advancing Education

In the spring of 2021, the Hidalgo County Housing Authority and Texas A&M Kingsville Education Opportunity Center signed an (MOU) to help junior and senior resident students prepare for college or technical school. The students could attend the school of their choice pending admittance. The center also arranged a three-day outing for students from the Cameron County and Hidalgo County areas to visit colleges in the Houston area.

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[145] EnVision Center

With a partnership with Family Services of Roanoke Valley, the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) newly renovated Roanoke EnVision Center houses a mental wellness program. This includes a private mental wellness room that serves as a location for RRHA residents and other community members to receive services such as: individual counseling, family counseling, play therapy, and more. This program is offered at no cost to any RRHA resident or any resident within the community that has a child 18 years or younger that is in danger of receiving intervention services.

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[146] Yesler Arts Program

Over several years, the Seattle Housing Authority worked intensively with artists to aid in the successful redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, a 30-acre, low-income community being transformed into a mixed-income neighborhood. Led by the agency's Development department, Yesler Arts programs were tasked with helping address the needs of residents as their community underwent radical change. Through myriad programs, a team of artists made a direct and positive impact on the redevelopment process by building a strong sense of belonging, helping residents process trauma and change, addressing racial, socioeconomic, and other structural injustices, and strengthening the housing authority.

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Image courtesy of Seattle Housing Authority



[147] Neighborhood Early Learning Connectors

Partnering in program design with public housing residents, the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) developed the Neighborhood Early Learning Connectors (NELC) Program to increase kindergarten readiness of KCHA's youngest residents. The NELC staff delivering services to eligible families are public housing residents employed by KCHA to conduct outreach and engage with families. The program's goals are to give families the information and resources they need to raise small children, to provide opportunities for children and families to participate in high-quality programs and services, and to strengthen relationships among neighbors.

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Image courtesy of King County Housing Authority



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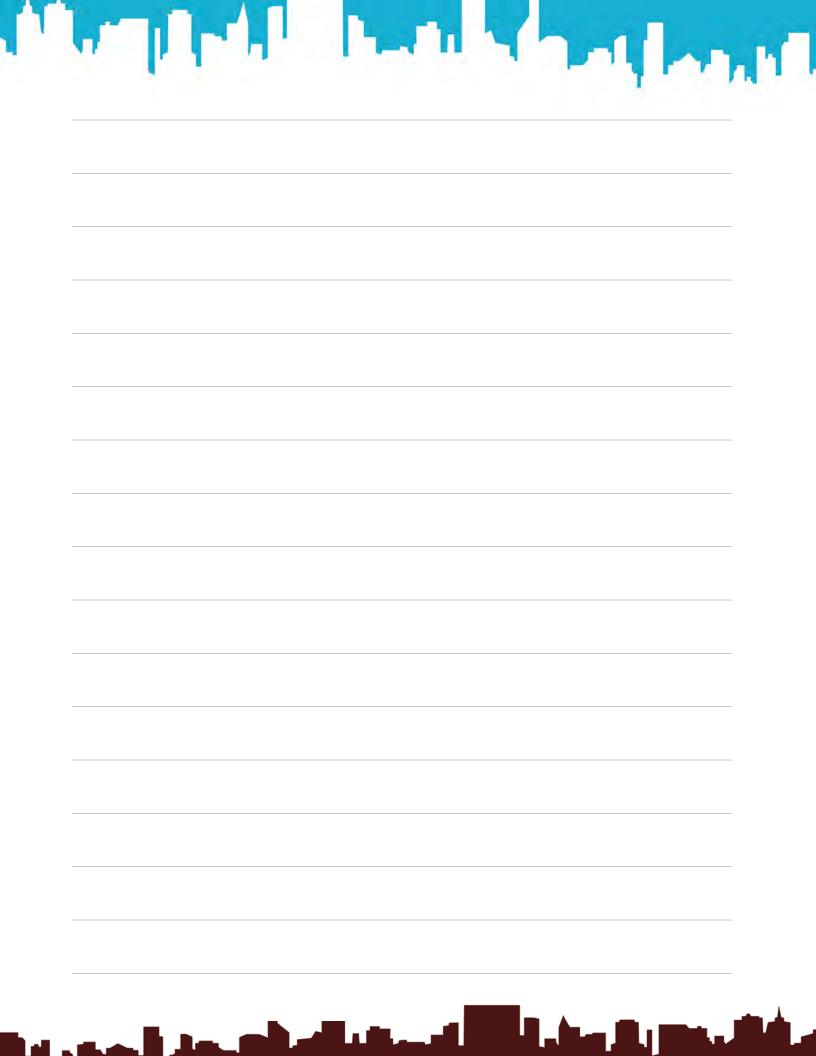
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