SERCULATION October 2023 Control of Control



Legislative Update

State Bits & Pieces pgs 12-17, 19-25, 27-29 SERC Youth Leadership Conference

ERC-NAHRO

Photos & Recap pgs 10-11

Winners: 2023 Website of the Year

Ask These Clients Why They Chose Brooks Jeffrey



AbbevilleHousing.org CCHRCO SC Website of the Year 1st Place Small Public Housing Category



RoxboroHA.com CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 2nd Place Small Public Housing Category



UnionHousingSC.org CCHRCO SC Website of the Year 3rd Place Large Public Housing Category



ColumbiaHousingSC.org CCHRCO SC Website of the Year 1st Place Extra Large Public Housing Category



TexarkanaHA.org SW NAHRO Website of the Year



WilliamstonHousingAuthority.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 3rd Place Small Public Housing Category



ConwayHousingSC.org CCHRCO SC Website of the Year 2nd Place Large Public Housing Category



HACG.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 1st Place Large Public Housing Category



WakeCountyHA.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 2nd Place Large Public Housing Category



RobesonHA.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 1st Place Medium Public Housing Category



KHANC.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 1st Place Extra Large Public Housing Category



NewBernHA.org CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 1st Place Small Public Housing Category



SHASC.org CCHRCO SC Website of the Year 1st Place Large Public Housing Category



GHANC.net CCHRCO NC Website of the Year 3rd Place Large Public Housing Category NAHRO Merit Award Website Administrative Innovation



NewSmyrnaHousing.com FAHRO Website of the Year

Brooks Jeffrey HA Clients Won 65 Branding, Marketing & Website Awards 2018-2023:

43 State Awards: 42 Websites of the Year & 1 Newsletter of the Year

6 SERC-NAHRO Awards: Website of the Year 15 NAHRO Merit Awards:

Websites, Social Media, Branding & Marketing Campaigns

> **1 SW NAHRO Award:** Website of the Year

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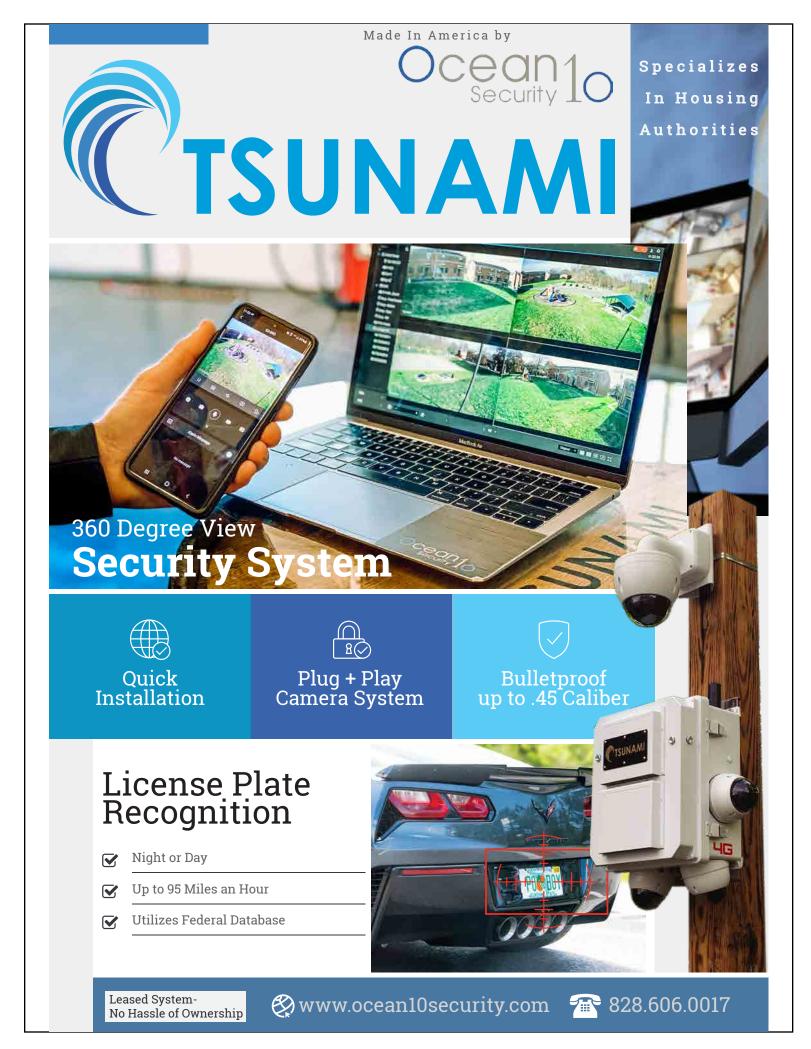
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THIS ISSUE



On the Cover

The SERC-NAHRO Youth Leadership Conference was held in Starkville, Mississippi, June 16th-19th. The event provides children living in assisted housing the opportunity to join their peers and engage in enrichment activities developing STEAM skills, leadership skills, and independence. For more details on this year's conference, please see the event recap features on pages 10-11.

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* IFC = Inside Front Cover

Advertorial

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The SERCulator is the official quarterly publication of the Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO).

Comments, suggestions, articles, features and photographs are solicited in interest of the members of SERC-NAHRO. Although all submissions are subject to approval and editing, every effort will be made to publish submissions based on available space. Photos cannot be returned.

Send Submissions Via: SERCulator.com | 800.506.8064



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President's Message Anthony Goodson, Jr. | SERC-NAHRO President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy Fall. Bring on the football, mums, and family gatherings.

I'm so thankful to serve as your President. I've been very blessed with great fortune. Our leadership in the Southeastern Regional Council of NAHRO is indispensable. Through action, advocacy, and example, we must sustain the order that has expanded dramatically since we became a council.

Our vision has empowered local housing and community development agencies to energize families to greatness and maintain and build affordable housing. We must continue to do everything we can to make more ladders of success for every child and family willing to work hard. We represent over 1,000 members who serve diverse families so our children will grow, move, and become great world leaders.

Our nation is over 5 million households or homes short of meeting the housing needs of our citizens. Unlock your creativity, spill your thoughts, and embrace our leadership, moving your ideas to change the world we work in.

I need to hear from you. Congress needs to hear from you. We must help them understand, appreciate, and support our work so actions can occur in the communities we serve. We must demand investment in affordable housing, flexibility that works for



your community, and reasonable timelines in a time of restricted resources. Our effect is enormous, and the change we bring is monumental.

Remember to take time for friends and family in the rush of events and responsibilities; they'll get you through the inevitable rough patches.

Remember, we are GAME CHANGERS!

Kindest regards,

Anthony Goodson, Jr., SERC-NAHRO President

Join Us for The 2023 SERC-NAHRO Fall Workshop

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SERC ulator		October	20)2	3				

4

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The updated Committee information will be provided in the January 2024 edition along with the updated state officers.

MS



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



SERC-NAHRO Legislative Network



Greetings SERC Nation!

The Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO) is an association of knowledgeable and dedicated housing and community development professionals. SERC-NAHRO's mission is to facilitate the development of new affordable housing and support the preservation of existing housing. Organized over 80 years ago, SERC-NAHRO consists of more than 700 agency members that serve over two (2) million low-income households in ten (10)southeastern states (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee). Through this Open Letter, SERC-NAHRO seeks continuing support of SERC-

by Yvonda A. Bean, Legislative Committee Chair - CEO, Columbia Housing, SC

NAHRO's legislative goals and a commitment from Congress to sufficiently fund HUD programs, enable practical housing and community development statutes and regulations, promote equitable access to affordable housing, and champion anti-poverty solutions for the millions of low-income families in need.

We are in a **nationwide affordable housing crisis** that will have a tremendous negative impact on communities. Cost-burdened renters are spending over half of their income on housing, and the lack of adequate, affordable housing places greater stress relating to mental health, food security, childhood education, health care, retirement, transportation, and overall social stability. SERC-NAHRO members are unified in their efforts to house America's economically disadvantaged, and we urge Congress to support Community Development and Affordable Housing initiatives.

Supporting Community Development and Affordable Housing initiatives has immense economic benefits, including but not limited to greater tax generation, creation of jobs, opportunities for economic development, increased job retention and productivity, and the ability to address the inequality of access to affordable housing.

Moreover, SERC-NAHRO's 2023 Legislative Goals are listed below.

SERC-NAHRO's 2023 Legislative Goals

GOAL 1: Increase Resources for Affordable Housing

Preservation

Fully fund appropriations for existing HUD housing programs. (Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, etc.)

New Construction

Increase appropriations to better meet current housing demands. (Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, etc.)

GOAL 3: Promote Equitable Access to Affordable Housing & Services

Economic & Educational Opportunities

Advocate for resources (Family Self-Sufficiency, Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services, etc.) to ensure access to economic, educational, and mental health opportunities.

Affordable Housing

Create and fund a workable Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, Disparate Impact, and Equal Access for the LGBT+ Community. GOAL 2: Enable Practical Housing & Community Development Statutes & Regulations

Housing & Community Development

Streamline and reduce regulatory and statutory administrative burdens for housing and community development programs so that insufficient federal funding can be used where it is needed most – providing housing for low-income families in strong communities.

GOAL 4: Champion Anti-Poverty Solutions

Enacting Legislation & Protecting Resources

Advocate for policies and resources (safety net programs i.e. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal Food Assistance, Mental Health, etc.) that will alleviate poverty.

2023 SERC-NAHRO Winners

Since 2008, the NAHRO What Home Means to Me Poster Contest has recognized the amazing art of children who live in affordable housing communities across the country. Each piece of art visually shares the child's thoughts on what their home means to them. Each state association within the SERC-NAHRO region has the opportunity to provide submissions from their member agencies to be considered during the SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference. NAHRO Fellows review all submissions and select a first, second, and third place for each age category to be forwarded on for consideration in the national contest. This year, SERC-NAHRO presented a special "Fan Favorite" award to an entry in each age division. At the SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, attendees were able to purchase tickets to vote for their favorite submission, with all donations benefiting the SERC-NAHRO Scholarship fund.

Elementary School Winners





Jada Leonard, Kinston Housing Authority, NC

2nd Place



Taylor Ashford, *Starkville Housing Authority, MS*



Jada Atkins, Tennessee Valley Housing Services, TN

Fan Favorite



Siyani Hannibal, Ocean Springs Housing Authority, MS

Middle School Winners





Kendon Lester, Bristol Housing and Redevelopment Authority, VA

High School Winners





Braxton Garrett, Bristol Housing and Redevelopment Authority, VA

2nd Place



Acacia Cosby, Mt. Hope Housing Authority, WV

3rd Place



Nykeria Hess, *Natchez Housing Authority, MS*

Fan Favorite



Jayda Lacey, Opp Housing Authority, AL

2nd Place



Kiara Simmons, Beckley Housing Authority, WV

3rd Place



Natasha Albino, Clarksburg Housing Authority, WV

Fan Favorite



Danny King, Jr., *Royston Housing Authority, GA*

Additional SERC-NAHRO What Home Means to Me Poster Contest Submissions

Join us in celebrating this year's participants from across the SERC-NAHRO region. To view all SERC-NAHRO What Home Means to Me Poster Contest submissions, visit the gallery on SERCulator.com.

Alabama -

Elementary

• Chynna Carpenter, Opp HA

Middle School

• Jayda Lacey, Opp HA

Florida

Elementary

- 1. Emma Price, North Central Florida Regional HA
- 2. Sarah Yaun, Columbia County HA
- 3. Calvin Heusdens, North Central Florida Regional HA

Middle School

- 1. Amauria Newton, Columbia County HA
- 2. Alriah Richardson, Columbia County HA

High School

- Ayah Abdalla, Columbia County HA
- Carter Heusdens, North Central Florida Regional HA

Georgia

Elementary

- Londyn Walker, Decatur HA
- Bayli Behrends, Northeast GA HA
- Janiyah Patton, Decatur HA

Middle School

- Hindigo Abukae, Decatur HA
- Rahma Chibuya, Decatur HA
- Fatumo Sheikh, Decatur HA

High School

- Barbara Ann Mercer, Cairo HA
- Corinthian Freeman, Blakely HA
- Danny King, Jr., Royston HA

Mississippi -

Elementary

- 1. Taylor Ashford, Starkville HA
- 2. Siyani Hannibal, Ocean Springs HA
- 3. Koreyana Brewton, Laurel HA

Middle School

- 1. Albany Ingram, Starkville HA
- 2. Deasyia Griffin, Columbus HA
- 3. Nykeria Hess, Natchez HA

High School

- 1. Siyani Hannibal, South Mississippi HA
- 2. Ahmad Bonds, Natchez HA
- 3. Tyler Brown, Meridian HA

North Carolina

Elementary

- 1. Jada Leonard, Kinston HA
- 2. Aniya Horton, Roxboro HA
- 3. Makenzie Harrison, Roxboro HA

Middle School

- 1. Ziniya Lewis, HA of the City of Goldsboro
- 2. Alexus Fox, Roxboro HA
- 3. Aliyah McMillan-Jones, Roxboro HA

High School

- 1. Jamira Carter, Greensboro HA
- 2. Devante Jackson, Greensboro HA
- 3. Nicholas McNeil, Greensboro HA

South Carolina

Elementary

- 1. Christine Collins, Spartanburg HA
- 2. Drelyn Kinlaw, Columbia Housing
- 3. Ariana Bookart, Columbia Housing

Middle School

- 1. Joshua Brigman, Mullins HA
- 2. Junesha Lana, Columbia Housing
- 3. Shamya Green, Gaffney HA

High School

1. Charlton Eldridge, Spartanburg HA

Tennessee -

Elementary

- Jade Atkins, Tennessee Valley Housing Services
- Jaylee Wright, Tennessee Valley Housing Services

Virginia

Elementary

1. Neytiri Williams, Newport News RHA

Middle School

- Ni'zorre Williams, Newport News RHA
- Kendon Lester, Bristol RHA
- Seriah Madden, Newport News RHA

High School

- Braxton Garrett, Bristol RHA
- Teniyah Corprew, Newport News RHA

West Virginia -

Elementary

- Jaddison Heckethorn, Clarksburg HA
- Karly Hilliard, Buckhannon HA
- Aaileeyah Nightengale, Wheeling HA

Middle School

• Acacia Cosby, Mt. Hope HA

High School

- Jaedyn Vanney, *Charleston Kanawha HA*
- Kiara Simmons, City of Beckley HA
- Natasha Albino, Clarksburg HA



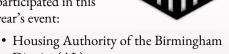
The SERC Youth Leadership Conference Was Full Steam Ahead!

Attendees with access to the SERC Region were welcomed to Starkville, MS, on June 16th-19th for 3 days of STEM, fellowship, and of course, fun!

This year's conference was hosted by Columbus Housing Authority (Debra Taylor, ED) and Starkville Housing Authority (Amy Bishop, ED).

Attendees were able to visit the Mississippi State University campus, partake in a scholarship and admissions informational session, and take a full campus tour. During their time at MSU, attendees were able to visit a variety of schools and see how STEM skills can be applied in a variety of careers. Students visited the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems, the Raspet Flight Laboratory, MSU School of Architecture, and the High-Performance Computing Center.

The following Housing Authorities participated in this year's event:



- District (AL)
- Eufaula Housing Authority (AL)
- Columbus Housing Authority (MS)
- Laurel Housing Authority (MS)
- South Mississippi Housing (MS)
- Starkville Housing Authority (MS)
- Goldsboro Housing Authority (NC)



Attendees pose in-front of McCool Hall, College of Business, Adkerson School of Accountancy Building at Mississippi State University



Attendees take part in STEAM activities while on campus at MSU



Attendees have the opportunity to relax while paying some video games on "The Game Truck" after a day of activities



Attendees pose with the iconic 'Bully" statue in The Junction



Attendees taking part in an MSU campus tour



Attendees arrive at Davis Wade Stadium



Attendees learning more about the Raspet Flight Laboratory at MSU



Attendees visit the Raspet Flight Laboratory at MSU

SERC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Attendees pose with their "STEAM" inspired artwork



Attendees participating in an MSU Campus Tour



A group of attendees stopping for lunch at the Marketplace at Perry dining hall at MSU



Attendee checking in and receiving their backpack filled with school supplies and conference information



Backpacks filled with school supplies are prepared for distribution before attendees arrive



An attendee makes a quick stop by the MSU bookstore



Attendees posing with their "STEAM" inspired art



Attendees "STEAM" painting



A group of attendees hard at work painting their "STEAM" inspired art



Attendees learning more about the Raspet Flight Laboratory at MSU

Students attend a lecture from the MSU school of architecture

ALABAMA AAHRA.org



A Summer of STEM

- Alexander City Housing Authority

Throughout this summer, ACHA has engaged with residents old and young to have a summer to remember!

Alexander City Housing Authority (ACHA) partnered with Alexander City Schools for the Summer Math & Reading Enrichment H.Y.P.E. (Helping Young People Excel) Program.

There were a total of five sites across town that participated in the H.Y.P.E. Program. From all locations participating in the program, students completed a variety of activities to help students retain the information they learned in the previous year over the summer.

ACHA's Youth & Adult Center had 47 children participate, and collectively, they read 1073 books.

ACHA's Laurel Heights property saw 29 students participate in reading 893 books collectively.

Laurel Heights Top Readers

- A'yunna Goggans read 100 books
- O'Mejae Pearson read 100 books
- Kenley Simmons most Reading choice boards completed
- Zakorya Harvey most Math choice boards completed
- Aiden Findley most Nearpod Reading and Math lessons

ACHA's Springhill property saw 18 students participate in reading 180 books collectively.

Springhill Top Readers

• Cory Edwards read the most books at Springhill - 26 books



Springhill Top Readers

- Zoey Edwards read the second most books 22 books
- Cory & Zoey completed the most choice boards and Nearpod lessons for Springhill

For ACHA's senior residents, through a partnership with Public Wireless, LLC, Patsy Prater (ACHA Ross Grant Coordinator) assisted 45 senior citizens in receiving a free laptop through the partnership. Public Wireless, LLC, works to partner with affordable housing providers to help bridge the digital technology divide.

The summer was just the start of a year of wonderful opportunities for ACHA residents. To learn more, please visit the ACHA website at AlexCityHousing.org.



Pictured Top Left: ACHA Seniors show off their new laptops Pictured Top Right: Laurel Heights Top Readers

YouthBuild-ing New Opportunities

- Opelika Housing Authority



Opelika Housing Authority was awarded a new \$1,371,354 YouthBuild Grant!

The YouthBuild Program provides pre-apprenticeship services that support education, occupational skills training, and employment services to opportunity youth, ages 16 to 24, while performing meaningful work and service to their communities.

The YouthBuild program model prepares participants for quality jobs in a variety of careers, including infrastructure, and contains wrap-around services such as mentoring, trauma-informed care, personal counseling, and employment – all key strategies for addressing community violence. The YouthBuild program must include construction skills training and may include occupational skills training in other in-demand industries.

The YouthBuild program simultaneously addresses multiple core issues important to youth in low-income communities: affordable housing, leadership development, education, and employment opportunities in in-demand industries and apprenticeship pathways. YouthBuild programs serve as the connection point to vital services for participants.

To stay up to date with how Opelika Housing Authority implements this program, please visit their website at OpelikaHA.org/YouthBuild.



OPELIKA HOUSING AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1706 TOOMER STREET

Matthew McClammey, ED; Jessica Ford, Resident Services Director; Antonious Freeman, YouthBuild Program Coordinator; Steve Long, Director of Finance (Opelika, AL)

Connecting with Residents and Getting Residents Connected

- Selma Housing Authority



The Selma Housing Authority (SHA) has been hard at work meeting resident needs this summer.

First, this July, SHA held their third Build-A-Bed Initiative. The Build-A-Bed Initiative presents over 100 living room and bedroom furniture sets to residents.

The initiative began in 2019 as a program to aid residents in enhancing their homes. The dedicated staff, administrators, and the board came together to deliver each piece of furniture with love, smiles, and high energy.

Even though the agency took a brief pause with this cause during the COVID-19 pandemic, they returned this year stronger than ever. SHA President and CEO, Kennard Randolph, stated: "It is my hope that this initiative gifts families and individuals with the added pieces of furniture to make their living spaces into a loving home."

Later in the summer, SHA turned their sights on helping close the digital divide for their affordable housing residents. SHA introduced free dark fiber internet access and live streaming service, empowering their communities to stay connected, informed, and entertained.

Through a partnership with Black Belt Technologies, Craig Field Industries, the Blackbelt Community Foundation, and SHA, the Community Connection Network Infrastructure (CCNI) was developed. The CCNI connects the community directly to the internet and applications that positively address the lack of accessible, affordable, and reliable internet services. The applications provide streaming services, educational platforms for all ages, access to workforce development and training platforms, entertainment, and expanded telecommunication capabilities.

As Housers, we are sometimes called to meet our residents precisely where they are, and SHA has been busy working to connect their residents in all possible ways.

Stay up to date with other programs and initiatives coming soon by visiting the Selma Housing Authority website at SelmaHousing.com.



Julius Howard, COO, and Kennard Randolph, CEO (Selma, AL) Delivering New Mattresses and Couches to SHA





FLORIDA FAHRO.org

"High Performer" Rating Awarded for Two Major Programs

- St. Petersburg Housing Authority

St. Petersburg Housing Authority (SPHA) is thrilled to announce that it has earned the "High Performer" designation for two of its major housing programs.

SPHA's Chief Executive Officer and President Michael Lundy said, "Earning these two ratings is a remarkable accomplishment, and I am so proud of all this agency has achieved. Through our solid Board of Commissioners, hardworking staff, and strong community partnerships, we have the foundation to build more affordable housing opportunities for our city now and the vision to innovate the housing landscape for the future."

Chairperson James Dates of the SPHA Board of Commissioners said, "These 'High Performer' ratings mean that SPHA has regained our national standing, and we are committed to continuing to make forward progress locally. The SPHA Board of Commissioners has faith in the



leadership of Mr. Lundy as CEO and the commitment of our staff to further our mission of service, to achieve the agency's development goals, and to create more opportunities for stronger communities."

For fiscal year 2022, SPHA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program received a perfect score of 100 percent on federal assessments.

The Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) uses a 100-point scoring system to review agency performance in managing its Public Housing program, and SPHA earned a score of 94 percent in its most recent assessment. PHAS evaluates four key areas of Public Housing management: physical condition, financial condition, management operations, and capital funds.

Congratulations, SPHA! To keep up to date with SPHA, please visit their website, StPeteHA.org.

New Responsive, ADA Accessible Website Launched

- Tampa Housing Authority

The Tampa Housing Authority has officially launched its new responsive website!

Their new site allows visitors to easily navigate the content on any device: desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. It also addresses ADA accessibility, allowing all users to easily access agency information.

Their new website features portals that allow visitors to seamlessly apply for housing online. Residents now also have, the ability to submit secure and encrypted forms through the website.

Visit the new Tampa Housing Authority website at TampaHA.org.



NAHRO Certifications

NAHRO offers a wide variety of certifications for specialized skill sets for Housers. Help us congratulate:

NAHRO Certified Commissioner (NCC)

- James A. Dates (St. Petersburg Housing Authority, FL)
- Carolyn J. Mason (Sarasota Housing Authority, FL)



3 Public-Private **Partnerships Bring** Affordable Housing Options

- Jacksonville Housing

The Jacksonville Housing (JH) Board voted unanimously to enter three public-private partnerships expected to produce 789 new and upgraded affordable and low-income housing units for an estimated investment of \$160 million.

The deals include the 102-unit Downtown East Apartments in the city's Eastside neighborhood, deemed a nuisance property in August 2022 by the city.

The Board agreed to enter into nonbinding MOUs with three development groups on three projects: Atlanta-based The Integral Group LLC, Miami-based Tre Bel Housing LLC, and the Jacksonville-based nonprofit community revitalization group LIFT JAX operating in the Eastside.

"These three projects show just how publicprivate partnerships can deliver more affordable, low-income housing to the Jacksonville market," said Board Chairman Christopher Walker.

JH plans to issue essential function bonds to finance the project.

To learn more about these planned projects or about other affordable housing development projects, please visit the Jacksonville Housing website at JAXHA.org.

BITS & PIECES

FLORIDA FAHRO.org

FAHRO Annual Conference Recap

Thank you for joining us at the FAHRO Annual Conference. We had an outstanding time coming together as a FAHRO family to celebrate our achievements and empower our staff with outstanding training opportunities.

During our conference, we were able to recognize Housers: Agencies and Affiliates that went above and beyond.

Spirit Awards for Hurricane Ian

The following Housers went above and beyond in responding to Hurricane Ian and addressing the immediate housing needs of families displaced by the storm:

- Flagler Housing Authority
- Sarasota Housing Authority
- Seminole County Housing Authority
- Tarpon Springs Housing Authority

The following Housers answered the call for assistance and offered manpower, supplies, and other assistance to support agencies responding to Hurricane Ian:

- Brevard County Housing Authority
- Broward County Housing Authority
- Hialeah Housing Authority
- Tampa Housing Authority
- West Palm Beach Housing Authority
- Chadwell Supply

Agency Awards

Agency Innovation

- Small Agency: Lakeland Housing Authority
- Large Agency: Seminole County Housing Authority

Best Practices

- Small Agency: Lakeland Housing Authority
- Large Agency: Jacksonville Housing Authority
- Arcadia Housing Authority

Outstanding Large Agency

• Jacksonville Housing Authority

Outstanding Individual

• Dwayne Alexander



L to R: Jerome Ryans, CEO (Tampa, FL); Abe Singh, ED (Area Housing Commission Pensacola, FL); Kurt Pentelecuc, ED (Punta Gorda, FL); Shannon Young, ED (Seminole County, FL); Mark Thiele, CEO (NAHRO); Becky-Sue Mercer, ED (Arcadia, FL); Julio Ponce, ED (Hialeah, FL); Shane White, ED (Homestead, FL)

Website of the Year

• Housing Authority of the City of New Smyrna Beach (NewSmyrnaHousing.com)

Affiliate Member of the Year

Brooks Jeffrey Marketing

We invite you to attend our 2024 Executive Directors Forum, February 28th-29th, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach, FL. Please visit the FAHRO website, where registration information will be provided soon, FAHRO.org.

Save the Date! **2024 FAHRO Executive Directors Forum** Feburary 28-29th, 2024

Hard Rock Hotel | Daytona Beach, FL



HUD Provides \$45 Million in Stability Grants

On April 17, 2023, \$45 million for 3,379 Stability Vouchers to 135 public housing authorities (PHAs) and partnering Continuum of Care (CoC) communities across the United States.

HUD announced that 62 CoC communities are receiving \$486 million in grants to address unsheltered and/or rural homelessness and invited the PHAs who partnered with these CoCs to receive Stability Vouchers. Together, these grants and vouchers comprise a first-of-its-kind package of federal resources to help communities make continued progress in reducing homelessness.

Join us in celebrating the Florida Housers who received these grants!

- Miami-Dade Housing Agency
- Housing Authority of the City of Miami Beach
- Hialeah Housing Authority
- Housing Authority of the City of Homestead



FYI Vouchers Awarded

On August 9th, HUD announced \$869,000 in funding for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative, which addresses former foster youths experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Under the FYI initiative, housing vouchers will be provided to youth aged 18-24 who are leaving or who have left foster care within 90 days.

Help us congratulate our state's FYI Voucher Recipient:

- The Housing Authority of Brevard County - \$33,691 (3 Vouchers)
- Jacksonville Housing \$215,226

Newsletter of the Year



GAHRA Youth Leadership Conference

The GAHRA Youth Leadership Conference was held July 10-12 at the beautiful campus of Gordon State College in Barnesville, GA. The theme this year was "TAKEOVER," and that is exactly what we did! Youth were welcomed on campus and allowed to stay in the dorm rooms so they could really see what life at college is all about. We had several great sessions and some awesome speakers this year. As always, the Luau Dance was a great hit with the kids. We danced the night away and had the best time at Gordon State!





Attendees pose on stage at Gordon State College



Attendees tour Gordon State College

The GAHRA Leadership Committee would like to thank the HA's that sent their youth this year:

- Augusta Housing Authority
- Brunswick Housing Authority
- Camilla Housing Authority
- Decatur Housing Authority
- Dublin Housing Authority
- Hazlehurst Housing Authority
- Royston Housing Authority
- Thomaston Housing Authority
- Tifton Housing Authority



Attendees take part in education sessions



Niki Perry, Closing Speaker



Attendees dine at Gordon State College Facilities

BITS & PIECES

NAHRO Certifications

NAHRO offers a wide variety of certifications for specialized skill sets for Housers. Help us congratulate:

Certified Public Housing Manager (C-PHM)

- **Beatrice Atwell** (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Raechelle Bland (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Frances Cutter (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Taryn Fortner (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Suzanne Frazier (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Emily Miller (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Chantel Morgan (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Jasmine Murdaugh (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Chante' Myrick (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Adrianna Parga (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Talicia Philpot (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Beatriz Ramos (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Katherine Rockefeller-Gary (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Maria Rosales (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)
- Sandra Smith (Housing Authority of the City of Augusta, GA)

Certified Specialist of Fair Housing (CSFH)

- Sabrina A. Lockhart (Housing Authority of DeKalb County, GA)
- Kentrye Cornelious (Housing Authority of Dekalb County, GA)
- Jamillah Monroe (Housing Authority of Dekalb County, GA)
- Danyale Long (East Georgia Housing Authority)

BITS & PIECES

\$40 Million Grant Brings Transformation to Life

- Atlanta Housing Authority

HUD official Dominique Blom, Mayor Andre Dickens, U.S. Rep. Nikema Williams, affordable housing advocates, and community members came out to celebrate Atlanta Housing and the City of Atlanta as they received the \$40 million to transform the Bowen Choice Neighborhood (BCN).

"I am so excited to see Atlanta get this Choice Neighborhoods award," said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "The City of Atlanta and [Atlanta Housing] have demonstrated their commitment to neighborhood revitalization, having undergone a comprehensive planning effort to redevelop Bowen Homes and the entire Bowen area. The whole-ofgovernment approach to neighborhood revitalization is what leads to impactful changes in the neighborhoods that need it the most."

The CN program is consistent with the Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens' vision for neighborhood revitalization and is part of the West Hollowell segment of the Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway transformational corridor initiative. AH has been working with the mayor's office to develop strategies and focus resources in three areas consistent with the grant requirements: Housing, People, and Neighborhoods.

The housing strategy supports the redevelopment of the former Bowen Homes site, with more than \$300 million allocated for housing. The People strategy focuses on developing programs that will improve health, education, and economic outcomes for former Bowen residents and the BCN community. The program leverages partnerships and resources with the Boys and Girls Club, Communities in Schools, Families First, Ga Tech CEISM, Goodwill of North Georgia, Grady Health System, Morehouse School of Medicine, Quality Care for Children, United Way, Urban League, Westside Works (CareerRise), and YMCA. Total funding for the People strategy is \$42 million. The neighborhood strategy focuses on residential and commercial blight removal, neighborhood housing development, acquisition and clean-up of contaminated properties, and public safety, with a budget of more than \$200 million.

"This Choice Neighborhood grant will be transformational for the Bowen Choice Neighborhood and will leverage hundreds of millions in public and private resources to create new affordable housing, improve neighborhood amenities, and provide new opportunities for current and former residents," said Eugene E. Jones, Jr., President and CEO of Atlanta Housing.

This is the second Choice Neighborhoods Grant awarded to AH and the City of Atlanta.

For more information about Atlanta Housing Authority, please visit their website at AtlantaHousing.org.

HUD Provides \$45 Million in Stability Grants

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HUD announced that 62 CoC communities are receiving \$486 million in grants to address unsheltered and/or rural homelessness and invited the PHAs who partnered with these CoCs to receive Stability Vouchers. Together, these grants and vouchers comprise a first-of-its-kind package of federal resources to help communities make continued progress in reducing homelessness.

Join us in celebrating the Georgia Housers who received these grants!

- Albany Housing Authority
- Housing Authority of the City of Newnan
- Georgia Residential Finance



A Life of Service Remembered

- LaFayette Housing Authority

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Ms. Ruth Bass.

Ruth recently retired as Executive Director of the LaFayette Housing Authority, where she worked for 36 years and was past president of GAHRA. Ruth was a member of the LaFayette First Baptist Church and the Rotary Club and served on the LaFayette-Walker County Public Library Board.

She is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Johnny Bass; a son, Brad (Sarah) Huggins; daughter-in-law, Christy Huggins; grandchildren, Andrew Huggins, Anna Kate Huggins, Abbie Huggins, Jud Huggins, and Sawyer Huggins; sister, Helen Franks; brothers, Chuck (Linda) Franks, Robert (Michelle) Franks, Tommy Franks, and David (Laura) Franks; and several nieces and nephews.

Please join us in celebrating the dedicated life of service that Ruth led. Her spirit of selflessness and commitment will be long felt throughout her community, GAHRA, and SERC-NAHRO.

Welcome New NAHRO Members

NAHRO membership unites you with more than 19,000 members—the largest and most effective network of housing and community development professionals. Help us welcome our new NAHRO member agency:

• Housing Authority of Clayton County, GA



Video Surveillance Systems – Asking the Right Questions to Protect

by Tsunami - Asheville, NC

Providing safe public housing is one of HUD's key missions. Security camera projects are perhaps the best tool in agencies' toolboxes to accomplish that mission. Unfortunately, starting and maintaining a security camera system can be the most confusing and technical endeavor for agencies, both large and small. Many security providers make the process overly technical and opaque.

Ocean 10 has seen every security system design under the sun, and we've identified important aspects to look for in a comprehensive video security system.

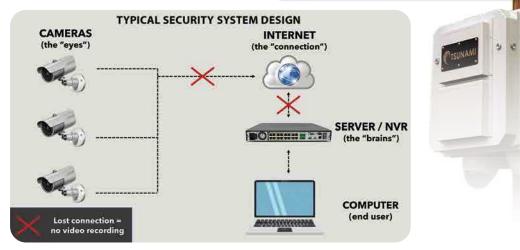
The more parts and components in a security system, the more likely it is to fail.

Video surveillance is more than just cameras. Think of the cameras as the "eyes" of a system. The eyes view information but they need a place to record and store the video footage (i.e., the "brain" of the system). These components also need to transmit information to each other and ultimately send that video footage to your computer or phone.

This creates multiple "links in a chain." When one link breaks, the chain is broken. For instance, many cameras require an internet connection to transmit video back to a central server that is stored inside of an office. When that connection is interrupted, no camera is actively recording video.

The more parts and components in a security system, the more maintenance it requires.

Installing a video security system is just one piece of the project. Technology especially technology that is kept outside in the weather and elements - requires regular maintenance for optimal function.



The more parts that a system requires, the more maintenance is required. When components are scattered throughout a community, maintaining the whole system becomes far more challenging. This could be why many security companies will only agree to maintain products for 1 or 2 years. It is quite common for video security systems to become non-operable within 2-3 years due to a lack of available maintenance and service. Understanding a company's commitment and plan for maintenance is crucial for the longevity of a video security system.

What types of questions should I ask a security provider?

- 1. What is the cost of installing internet and power to service cameras?
- 2. How long will a company agree to maintain a security system once installed?
- 3. What happens if a camera is vandalized?
- 4. If a server breaks, who fixes it and what is that cost?
- 5. If a camera loses connection and stops recording footage, how quickly can a technician solve the problem?
- 6. What is the resolution of the cameras? (i.e., how clear is the picture?)
- 7. If you wanted to upgrade cameras to latest technology, can that be done and what is the cost?

Ocean 10 Security has had the privilege to work with Housing Authorities and Federal agencies in almost every region of the United States. We consistently hear the same stories about the difficulty of finding the right company to both install and maintain video surveillance systems. Asking the right questions can protect your organization from costly installations and subpar service.

Tsunami by Ocean 10 Security 828.606.0017

info@ocean10security.com



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Unveiling the Affordable Housing Gem 'Race on Third'



- Lexington Housing Authority

The Lexington Housing Authority celebrated the completion of their newest affordable housing development located in downtown Lexington at the intersection of Race and East Third Streets. The open house and ribboncutting ceremony held on July 24, 2023, included refreshments, live music, and beautifully staged units. Executive Director Austin Simms welcomed LHA Commissioners, HUD officials from the Louisville Field office, Mayor Linda Gorton, the local chamber of commerce, along with several local dignitaries who shared comments with attendees.

This development, near their most recent HOPE VI development, consists of six (6) two-bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse apartments in an area that is currently undergoing revitalization with new residential and commercial opportunities. These 1,300+ square foot townhomes offer off-street parking, covered front porches and patios, granite countertops, laminate wood flooring throughout, walk-in closets, and ceiling fans.

As LHA continues to redefine affordable housing in the community, they were especially pleased to develop these units using non-federal dollars, which enables them to offer market-rate units with no income restrictions. Housing Choice Vouchers are also accepted from qualifying families. The minority-owned contractor, Elaine Allen LLC, completed this \$1.6 million project in approximately 13 months.

To learn more about this development or other upcoming projects, please visit the LHA website at LexHA.org.

HUD Provides \$45 Million in Stability Grants

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HUD announced that 62 CoC communities are receiving \$486 million in grants to address unsheltered and/or rural homelessness and invited the PHAs who partnered with these CoCs to receive Stability Vouchers. Together, these grants and vouchers comprise a first-of-its-kind package of federal resources to help communities make continued progress in reducing homelessness.

Join us in celebrating the Kentucky Housers who received these grants!

- Louisville Metro Housing Authority
- Housing Authority of Henderson
- Boone County Fiscal Court
- Bowling Green CDA
- Kentucky Housing Corporation

\$123 Million Coming to Kentucky for Disaster Recovery Program

Kentucky is receiving \$123 million from HUD to launch a disaster recovery program related to the 2021 floods in eastern Kentucky and the 2021 tornado outbreak in western Kentucky.

Under the terms of the program, 80% of the funds will go to the four counties most impacted by those two 2021 natural disasters: Graves, Warren, Hopkins, and Breathitt. The remaining 20% of the funding will be split between 36 counties to aid recovery efforts for both disasters.

"Today, we're taking a big step forward and helping our neighbors who are impacted by the tornadoes of 2021 and the floods of 2021. Many lost their homes, some lost everything they owned," Beshear said.

The governor said, according to early estimates, around 600 housing units will be constructed from these funds.

Kentucky's Department for Local Government began accepting applications on May 1 for the program. Cities, counties, nonprofits, for-profits, and other government agencies can apply for funds to build houses, rental properties, and new multifamily structures. There is currently no deadline to apply for these funds.

For more information on this opportunity, please visit KYDLGWeb.KY.gov/ FederalGrants/16_DRP.cfm.



Celebrating a Career of Dedicated Service

- Winona Housing Authority

-



After over 43 years of dedicated service, Terri Farmer Holt retired, effective June 30, 2023. Her career took her in several directions, but she always held the common thread of helping and serving others.

Terri has served in a variety of companies throughout her career. She worked for over five years as Assistant to the Headmaster at a local school while volunteering to serve as a Junior High/Varsity Cheerleader sponsor, Yearbook sponsor, and Junior Class sponsor.

Terri also spent fifteen years as a part-time Postal Clerk with USPS, serving over eight area post offices. Terri went above and beyond to assist her clients, sometimes being entrusted to complete her clients bills by completing their money orders, sealing their envelopes, and mailing them.

She also spent ten years as Admissions Coordinator/Social Services with the University of Mississippi Nursing Center in Holmes County, Mississippi. She advocated for their residents and their family members, often being their voice when they were no longer able to speak for themselves.

In 2014, Terri began her career with Winona Housing Authority as an Administrative Assistant, working her way to Executive Director by July 2015. Terri was entrusted to assist in housing individuals in need of a place to live, yet another way Terri feels she has been able to serve others throughout her career.

During her time with Winona Housing Authority, Terri served on SERC-NAHRO Committees, including Small Agency Task Force and Public Affairs/SERCulator. Terri also served as a Director on the MAHRO board and on several MAHRO committees, including Member Services, Small Agency Task Force, and Professional Development.

Throughout her career, one word of praise stands out above all other accomplishments. While working with the US Postal Service, the acting Postmaster called her into his office and told her he had been working for over 20 years and that she was the most courteous Postal employee he had ever worked with. He went on to explain that Terri treated everyone the same, whether a lawyer, bank president, or a customer who had to ask her to read a piece of mail to him because he was unable to read.

A breast cancer survivor, she is quick to encourage all to have breast exams and mammograms regularly and to remind that men can get breast cancer, too. Terri claims, "Be still and know that I Am God." Psalms 46:10 is her verse through the times of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation.

God blessed Terri as "Moma" to Maggie (Jamie) and Carson, as well as a "Lovie" to Fitz and Hayes, her grandchildren.

Terri's grandsons and her family are a significant reason in her decision to retire. She recalls time with her grandmothers as some of her best childhood memories, and hopes she can help be that for her grandchildren.

Terri's other interests are gardening and cooking. She has a cottage industry, kitchen baking. Terri participates in a local annual Holiday Market and has recently begun participating in a local Farmer's Market.

Thank you, Terri, for your dedicated service to your agency, MAHRO, and SERC-NAHRO. Congratulations on your retirement!

NSPIRE Training Makes Big Impact

- Picayune Housing Authority

The Picayune Housing Authority hosted an NSPIRE training open for all MAHRO member agencies to participate in. John Emery of the US Inspection Group led the training and worked with Picayune HA to provide hands-on examples for the attendees.

In total, there were 78 attendees who benefited from this extremely valuable training. Not only did attendees gain valuable insight into the NSPIRE program, but they were also very well-fed! When Housers are able to come together to share in these training opportunities, everyone wins!

Thank you, Picayune Housing Authority, for hosting this outstanding opportunity for MAHRO Housers.



FYI Vouchers Awarded

On August 9th, HUD announced \$869,000 in funding for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative, which addresses former foster youths experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Under the FYI initiative, housing vouchers will be provided to youth aged 18-24 leaving or who have left foster care within 90 days.

Help us congratulate our state's FYI Voucher Recipient:

- The Housing Authority of the City of Jackson \$38,660 (5 Vouchers)
- Mississippi Regional Housing Authority No. VII - \$4,854 (1 Voucher)



MAHRO Annual Conference Recap

Thank you for joining us at the MAHRO Annual Conference, held at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS. August 16th-18th. We had an outstanding time coming together as a MAHRO family to celebrate our achievements and empower our staff with outstanding training opportunities.

The MAHRO Professional Development and Education Committees worked to facilitate excellent sessions to equip the MAHRO members with valuable training and educational opportunities.

The MAHRO Emerging Leaders Committee assisted in a variety of capacities throughout the conference, including hosting the Round Robin Cornhole Tournament, where proceeds benefited the MAHRO Scholarship Fund.

During our Boots and Bling President's Luncheon, MAHRO stepped out in their best boots, bling, and western wear! After some steep competition, Gloria Byrd, ED (Picayune, MS), took home the grand prize in her fabulous rhinestone boots. Finally, we celebrated what all our MAHRO Housers have accomplished over the last year at our Annual Business Meeting.

During this meeting, we took a moment to thank our MAHRO President, Jason Spencer, ED (Tennessee Valley HA, MS), for his hard work and dedication throughout his term. We look forward to his continued service on the MAHRO board as our immediate past president.

Finally, we reviewed the slate and voted to install your new MAHRO Board, which will be led by President Chris McKissick, ED (Booneville, MS).

Stay up to date on upcoming MAHRO conferences and events by visiting our website, MAHRO.org.

Pictured Top Left: Shamekia Moore, Occupancy Specialist; Amber Batson, Occupancy Specialist; Dianco Stallworth, Deputy Director; Lizbeth Nunes, Occupancy Specialist; Rachelle Vieages, Assisted Housing; Gina Rubom, HR Manager; Heather Mueller, CFO; Brittney Burns, Occupancy Specialist (South Mississippi Housing Authority)



Jessica McCormick, Data Entry (MRHAV); Carlie Shimfessel, HCV Specialist (MRHAV); Clarisse Adams, ED (Okalona, MS)



Thomas Coleman, MAHRO PAC Member (TVRHA); and wife, Mary K.Coleman

BITS & PIECES



Adrenace 'Shae' Williams, MS HUD Field Office Director; Judy Mellard, ED (Hattiesburg, MS)



Chris McKissick, MAHRO Upcoming President and ED (Booneville, MS), and Jason Spencer, MAHRO Immediate Past President and ED (Tennessee Valley Regional HA, MS)



Ben Washington, ED (Vicksburg, MS); Felicia Jackson, Assistant ED (Laurel, MS)



Debra Taylor, ED (Columbus, MS); Denise Dibbs, ED (Aberdeen, MS); Michelle Richardson, ED (Senatobia, MS) Meagan Richardson, 2023 Michael A. Robertson Memorial Scholarship Recipient (Senatobia, MS), Janice Herbertt, ED (Natchez, MS)



North Carolina Annual Conference Awards & Scholarships -

Website of the Year **Medium Housing Authority Small Housing Authority** obeson en Kerr illiamston Housing Authority lousina Housing Authority Iousing People, Changing Lives Housing Authority Bridging the Gap **1st Place** 2nd Place **3rd Place 1st Place** NewBernHA.org RoxboroHA.com WilliamstonHousingAuthority.org RobesonHA.org Large Housing Authority HACG **Housing Authority** of the City of Greenville Housing Authority Building Partnerships & _____ Strengthening Communities **1st Place** 2nd Place **3rd Place** HACG.org GHANC.net WakeCountyHA.org Extra Large Housing Authority Housing Authority of the City of High Point **1st Place** 2nd Place KHANC.org HPHA.net Newsletter of the Year Scholarship Winners

Extra Large Housing Authority



1st Place Housing Authority of the City of High Point

Brooks Jeffrey Beyond Scholarship Winner:

Ja'Shawn Harris Housing Authority of the City of High Point

SERC Scholarship Winner:

Tysheka V. Moore Kinston HA - \$1,500

CCHRCO Scholarship Winners:

Ronnay P. Williams Greensboro HA - \$1,000

Quadrai D. Lindsay Greensboro HA - \$1,000

Yasmeen Alloush HA of the City of High Point - \$1,000

Edwin Davis HA of the City of High Point - \$1,000

Jashwan Harris HA of the City of High Point - \$1,000

Sulaf Ali HA of the City of High Point - \$1,000

Darelsalam Karama HA of the City of High Point - \$1,000

> Za'Niyah M. Bobbitt Rocky Mount HA - \$1,000

BITS & PIECES



NAHRO Merit Award Acknowledges Agency Administrative Innovation

- Housing Authority of the City of Greenville

The Housing Authority of the City of Greenville (HACG) has been recognized by NAHRO with a NAHRO Merit Award for their Administrative Innovation during their website redesign and rebranding initiative.

The agency's new responsive website allows its staff to efficiently communicate with residents, community members, and stakeholders, all while addressing ADA Accessibility. Thus streamlining their agency's communications and administrative processes to save staff time and agency resources. This new website will also increase the awareness of the available programs the agency administers within the community. Additionally, the agency's new brand identity better reflects their vitalized mission and vision. Incorporating elements drawn from their community, their new branding empowers the agency and its residents. The rebranding initiative also launched the agency's new motto, "Building Partnerships and Strengthening Communities."

Check out HACG's new award-winning website and branding for yourself by visiting GHANC.net.

HACG Housing Authority of the City of Greenville

Building Partnerships & _____ ____ Strengthening Communities



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- Greenville Housing Authority
- Hickory Housing Authority
- Western Piedmont Council of Govts.
- Isothermal Planning and Dev. Commission
- Northwest Regional Housing Authority
- NC Commission of Indian Affairs

NAHRO Certifications

NAHRO offers a wide variety of certifications for specialized skill sets for Housers. Help us congratulate:

NAHRO Certified Commissioner (NCC)

• Joann Harkley (Housing Authority of the City of Greenville, NC)

Certified Public Housing Manager (C-PHM)

• Sandra Irizarry (Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, NC)

Certified Specialist of Occupancy – Housing Choice Vouchers (CSO-HCV)

- Keyera Emmanuel (Inlivian, NC)
- Nyema Hoover (Inlivian, NC)
- Marquitta Pitmon (Inlivian, NC)

Certified Specialist of Eligibility and Calculation – Housing Choice Vouchers (CSEC-HCV)

- Keyera Emmanuel (Inlivian, NC)
- Nyema Hoover (Inlivian, NC)
- Marquitta Pitmon (Inlivian, NC)

Changing of the Guard

- Asheville Housing Authority



A new president and CEO has been announced for the Housing Authority of Asheville. Monique Pierre now leads the agency as President and CEO. Pierre is the first woman, and first African American woman, to lead the agency since it was established in 1940.

The transition was planned to precede CEO David Nash's retirement, effective June 30.

To learn more about Asheville Housing Authority, please visit their website at HACA.org.



South Carolina Annual Conference Awards & Scholarships



Columbia Housing - \$1,000

SOUTH CAROLINA CarolinasCouncil.org

BITS & PIECES

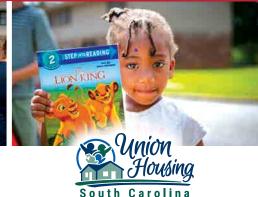


Summer Book Giveaway

- Union Housing

Residents of Union Housing spent the summer building up their reading skills in preparation for going back to school.

During the summer break from school, students can lose skills they learned during the school year if not practiced frequently. In order to encourage students to keep up their reading and comprehension skills, this book giveaway ensured students had access to new grade-appropriate books to read all summer long.



Union Housing partnered with Union County Schools and Save the Children to provide three days of Summer Book Giveaway events where students were invited to come to an event where they could receive a popsicle and free books! The event was well received by parents and students alike.

To learn more about this partnership, visit the Union Housing website at UnionHousingSC.org.

A Paw-sitive Opportunity

- Lancaster Housing Authority

The Lancaster Housing Authority found a unique way to support their local community while giving residents the opportunity to earn a summer camp scholarship!

Hosted by the Lancaster County Council of the Arts, Paws on Parade is a public art outreach project that brings sculptures into communities throughout Lancaster County. Thirty dog and cat sculptures, designed and painted by Lancaster artists, are placed in strategic outdoor locations where many who would not normally encounter art in their daily lives will see and engage with these whimsical sculptures.

Residents who find 10 of the painted dogs or cats on LCCA's Paws on Parade Trail receive a scholarship from Lancaster

Housing to attend Summer Camp in Lancaster County!

Not only does this program encourage residents to get outside and explore as a family, but it also gives children the

opportunity to participate in a summer camp of their choice and expand their horizons during their summer break.

For more information about this program or other outstanding resident opportunities, visit the Lancaster Housing Services website at LancasterHA.org.









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Join us in celebrating the South Carolina Housers who received these grants!

- Beaufort Housing Authority
- Myrtle Beach Housing Authority
- South Carolina State Housing Authority

Determined Minds Afterschool Program Grant Award

- Spartanburg Housing

Wofford College's Community Sustainability Seminar held an "End of Year Grant Pitch" event, which gave student volunteers from an opportunity to pitch funding proposals.

Spartanburg Housing was awarded first place and a grant in the amount of \$1,250 for its Determined Minds Afterschool Program. The program provides homework assistance, tutoring, arts and crafts, special events, and field trips. SH worked with the participating students to develop a proposal that demonstrated the impact of partnerships and sustainability. Congratulations to Spartanburg Housing!

To learn more about their Determined Minds Afterschool Program, please visit their website at SpartanburgHousing.org.





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Bringing Resources to Our Residents

- Jackson Housing Authority

The Jackson Housing Authority brought local resources directly to the residents of three JHA communities with their Family Expo. JHA's efforts focused on their housing complexes with the lowest household incomes and high unemployment rates: Lincoln Courts, 215 units; Allenton Heights, 99 units; and East Pointe Apartments, 99 units.

For all attending residents, JHA provided lunch and refreshments while the Jackson Fire Dept. and Police Departments provided water activities for all the youth, allowing the parents time to visit with the various vendors.

Participating partners included Salvation Army (Rental and Utility Assistance), Express Employment Professionals, Jackson State Community College, Jackson Police Department, West TN Legal Services,

WOW Read Wagon, Jackson Fire Department, Simmons Bank, Brasfield Construction Company (SECTION 3), Lincoln Heritage, SEEDCO, WRAP (Women's Resource and Rape Assistance Program), West TN Health Care, Christ Community Health Center, Quinco Mental Health, Eagles Nest, TN SHIP, American Job Center, Northwest TN Adult Education, GOODWILL, Family and Children's Services, Charter Communications, Positive Living Group, THDA, Century 21 Realtor, and Jackson Financial Empowerment Center/United Way. HUD staff was also on-site to help JHA promote ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program).

To learn more about Jackson Housing Authority, please visit their website at JacksonHA.com.

New Responsive Website Launched

- Etowah Housing Authority

Etowah Housing Authority has officially launched its new responsive website!

Their new responsive website allows site visitors to easily navigate the website no matter what device they use (desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone.) It also fully addresses ADA accessibility, allowing all residents to easily access website content and information. Their new website features valuable information for residents and potential applicants and will serve as their agency's digital hub for information.

To learn more about Etowah Housing Authority, visit their new website at EtowahHousingTN.org.



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Join us in celebrating the Tennessee Housers who received these grants!

- Johnson City Housing Authority
- Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Jackson Housing Authority

Welcome New NAHRO Members

NAHRO membership unites you with more than 19,000 members—the largest and most effective network of housing and community development professionals. Help us welcome our new NAHRO member agency:

• Humboldt Housing Authority, TN

Unveiling New Branding

- Dayton Housing Authority

Dayton Housing Authority is proud to debut its new logo and branding for its agency. The new agency logo features the beautiful rolling hills surrounding the DHA community and colors pulled from nature.

Stay up to date with agency happenings by visiting the Dayton Housing Authority website, DaytonHousingAuthority.org.



2023 VAHCDO Legislative Recap

VAHCDO ran a successful legislative agenda in the 2023 Virginia General Assembly session – please find the recap of our 2023 Legislative efforts below.

HB 1735 – Statement of Tenant Rights and Responsibilities Disclosure

A VAHCDO-sponsored bill that was introduced by Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg. The bill offered technical amendments that clarified requirements of the tenant rights and responsibilities disclosure.

The new requirement only requires a housing provider record when the tenant rights and responsibilities disclosure has been provided to the tenant.

We garnered the support of the Virginia REALTORS and VAMMHA and worked closely with the Virginia Poverty Law Center to position this bill for success. After going into conference committee, the final passage of this bill was 93(Y)-0(N) in the House of Delegates and 40(Y)-0(N) in the Senate. The bill became law on July 1, 2023.

HB 1771 – Expansion of the Communities of Opportunity Tax Credit (COTC)

A VAHCDO-sponsored bill was carried by Delegate Rodney Willett. Delegate Willett was successful in geographically expanding the COTC from the Richmond, Northern Virginia, and Virginia Beach/Hampton Roads regions to the entire state. Therefore, increasing the available amount of the tax credit was the next logical step. The existing \$250,000 pool of funds was fully subscribed to in 2021, and so, we sought to increase the pool to \$1 million. This request was due to the COTC now being offered statewide.

Unfortunately, the increase was not in the scope of budgetary priorities for 2023, and the bill was gently laid on the table. We are currently working with DHCD and other stakeholders to posture this bill for success in the 2024 General Assembly session. HB 1413 – Industrial Development Authorities ability to promote housing regardless of the presence of a Housing Authority

This bill would have allowed IDA's to promote safe and affordable housing even with the presence of an overlapping housing authority in a given locality. This bill presented concerns on the scope of abilities by IDA's to expand into housing provision. This bill was laid on the table and did not move forward by a vote of 9(Y)-0(N). The issue is currently being discussed by the Virginia Housing Commission.

HB 1614/SB 1384 – Housing Authorities and Common Household Pets

HB 1614 and SB 1384 sought to require housing authorities to permit tenants to own or maintain one or more common household pets. This bill would have allowed tenants to have any number of pets without any weight or size limitations, regardless of the size or location of the unit. Both versions of this bill failed in the General Laws committee in the House of Delegates.

State Budget

A skinny budget was passed before the end of the 2023 legislative session. Some budget items of note are provided below:

- Provides \$115.9 million GF in FY 2023 and \$125.8 million GF in FY 2024 for the combined impact of K-12 technical adjustments.
- Provides \$16.8 million GF in FY 2023, ensuring that no school division receives less funding than was communicated in error last June after accounting for the increased funding from enrollment and sales tax forecast changes.
- Appropriates \$405.9 million in FY 2024 to the Rainy-Day Fund from the FY 2022 revenue surplus.
 - Additionally, transfers \$498.7 million from the Revenue Reserve Fund to the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

- Provides \$250.0 million GF in FY 2023 to the Virginia Retirement System to address unfunded liabilities.
- Provides an additional \$100.0 million GF in FY 2023 to the 2022 Capital Supplement Pool for cost overruns on previously authorized capital projects.

For more information, please contact:

Tyler Craddock, (804) 396-2053, tcraddock@LSGteam.com.

Troy Garrett, (804) 396-2052, tgarrett@LSGteam.com.

NAHRO Certifications

NAHRO offers a wide variety of certifications for specialized skill sets for Housers. Help us congratulate:

NAHRO Certified Commissioner (NCC)

• Luciano Benjamin (Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, VA)

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Join us in celebrating the Virginia Housers who received these grants!

• Virginia Housing Development Authority

New Leadership Brings Renewed Vision

- Raleigh County Housing Authority

On Tuesday, August 15, 2023, the Raleigh County Commission approved the hire of Carmen Maniak as Executive Director of the Raleigh County Housing Authority.

Carmen brings with her years of affordable housing expertise, joining RCHA from Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority, where she served as Director of Leased Housing.

Carmen is prepared to bring a new vision to Raleigh County Housing Authority, which serves nine southern West Virginia counties. Carmen is excited to begin rehabilitating the agency's public housing and connecting the agency and residents with partners from across the nine-county region.

"There are communities out there that may provide other services, maybe food, rental assistance like deposits, other different stuff, maybe partnering with some community agencies to assist in doing the housing," said Carmen.

Currently, the agency is recruiting landlords to partner with the agency's voucher program.

To keep up with all of the changes coming to Raleigh County Housing Authority please visit their new website RaleighCountyHA.org.



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Join us in celebrating the West Virginia Housers who received these grants!

- Mingo County Housing Authority
- Randolph County Housing Authority

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REACH OUT TO US: YOUR SERC OFFICERS



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VP PROFESSIONAL DEV. Candice Drake (GA)

Dawson Housing Authority **Executive Director** dawsonha@windstream.net 229.995.2675



VP MEMBER SERVICES Shaunté Evans (SC)

Spartanburg Housing Chief Executive Officer SHASC.org sevans@spartanburghousing.org 864.598.6000

VP CR&D Shannon Young (FL) Seminole County Housing Authority - Executive Director SCHAFLA.org syoung@schafla.org



VP COMMISSIONERS Anthony Sawyer (FL)

407.365.3621

Fort Walton Beach Housing Authority - Vice Chairman FWBHA.com 850.243.3224



Dates to Remember



2023 SERC-NAHRO **Executive Committee Meeting**



2024 SERC-NAHRO **Executive Committee Meeting**



2023 SERC-NAHRO **Fall Workshop**



2024 SERC-NAHRO **Annual Conference**

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