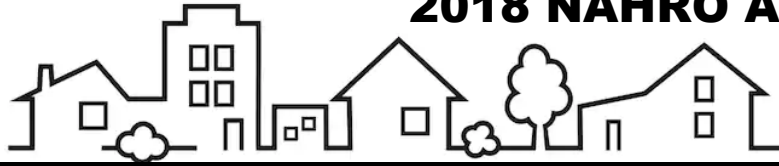


# Congratulations

## MARC Region Selections

for

## 2018 NAHRO Awards of Merit



### **Resident and Client Services - Housing Search Program**

Combating the overarching challenges of looking for housing, the Baltimore County Department of Housing's Search Program, designed a counseling search team that assist Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders with locating and securing housing that suits their needs. The counselors use a technique that incorporates research and resources in the counseling process. Cultivating a unique approach to enhancing the success of this program, each HCV holder is paired with a housing counselor to evaluate and meet their desired needs from start to finish.

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### **Administrative Innovation – Mobility Counseling Program**

Faced with the challenge of educating their Housing Choice Voucher and Waiting List participants, the Baltimore County Department of Housing developed a series of comprehensive counseling workshops that include financial literacy, banking/household and budgeting, housekeeping/maintenance tips, rights/responsibilities, and referrals for training and employment opportunities. The program ensures up to 36 months of counseling services to include pre-move, move, and post move services. These workshops are all tailored to help each participant achieve their acquired family goals.

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### **Resident and Client Services – Family Self-Sufficiency Program**

The Baltimore County Department of Housing's Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS) developed a creative outreach technique that has improved their communication. Program staff designed a quarterly FSS newsletter to ensure continual communication and support for each FSS participant. The electronic newsletter provides FSS participants with upcoming job fairs, employment workshops, homeownership information, health screenings, program updates, and more. This inexpensive publication allows the FSS program to connect with participants on a regular bases in between their case management dates and maintain compliance within the program, as well as assist participants in obtaining continual education.

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### **Resident and Client Services – Choices Program**

The Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County (HCAAC) established the Choices Program in 2016. As a result of a grant awarded by Anne Arundel County, HCAAC developed a program to provide low income individuals and families additional support in the areas of independence, self-sufficiency, and creating opportunities for those who receive housing assistance. The Choices participants must have a goal of self-sufficiency and a willingness to participate in case management. Through the grant award, a Relocation Specialist and a Choices Manger were hired to perform duties alongside existing staff to enhance programs within the agency.

Contact: Clifton C. Martin, CEO, Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County  
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### *Administrative Innovation* – **Environmental Projects Become Learning Tools at HA**

The Hightstown Housing Authority is a 100-unit apartment community sited on 3.1 acres. The Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director, after a devastating flood, decided to undertake projects that would reduce the amount of storm water from the site, and at the same time reduce the amount of water consumed on site, thus reducing the environmental impact the community has on the municipality. The multiyear project was completed using grants and donations from a variety of sources. The results are a 30% reduction in overall water consumption and a 50% reduction of stormwater.

Contact: Allen Keith LePrevost, Executive Director, Hightstown Housing Authority  
131 Rogers Avenue, Hightstown, NJ 08520  
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### *Affordable Housing* – **Joint Venture in Developing Affordable Housing**

There was a paucity of affordable housing in the area, and the lack of available funds made it almost impossible to develop any affordable housing. In addition, the local opposition to affordable housing exacerbated the problem. The only way to resolve this was to create a joint venture with a municipality and get "buy-in" from the local community. Through a series of meetings with the local community and the cooperation of a local municipality, an affordable housing complex was conceived, and a 56 unit low income affordable housing development was created.

Contact: Louis A. Riccio, Executive Director, Madison Housing Authority  
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### *Project Design* – **Unique Design for Affordable Housing**

While local housing prices and rents were skyrocketing, and the need for affordable rentals began to soar ever higher, the Madison Housing Authority set forth to increase the supply of affordable housing by working in conjunction with a municipality to educate the public and develop affordable apartments. Due to the site constraints the design of the development was critical to its acceptance into the neighborhood.

Contact: Louis A. Riccio, Executive Director, Madison Housing Authority  
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Phone: 973-377-0258 Email: Lriccio@madisonha.com

### *Project Design* – **Crestview Village Exterior Renovations**

Crestview Village, a twenty-four building, 103 unit development originally built in 1952 by the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver was in serious need of a cosmetic overhaul to increase the marketability to the surrounding neighborhoods. As a result of the availability of Capital Grant Funds and in conjunction with Franus Architectural Associates, Inc. and Southwestern Pennsylvania Builders, Inc., an attractive, marketable, comparable housing complex now exists in a quaint historical town available for families in need of housing.

Contact: Brian L. Yaworsky, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Beaver  
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### *Affordable Housing* – **Northwest 9 Program**

The Northwest 9 Program is a collaboration between nine rural counties in Pennsylvania that were experiencing high homelessness among the population of individuals and households who are not eligible for federal housing subsidies. This population includes those owing debts to PHA's, residents in areas with closed voucher waiting lists and, most commonly, ineligibility due to criminal history and/or sex offender status. The development of a voucher like program using reinvestment funds was implemented across the region with an emphasis on self-sufficiency. The Program has successfully housed more than 200 households and transitioned over 30% to self-sufficiency.

Contact: Penny Campbell, Executive Director, Clarion County Housing Authority  
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*Resident and Client Services – HACE Lethality Assessment Program*

Domestic Violence calls have historically been the highest reported incidence of crime at the Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE). In 2015 HACE partnered with SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network and our Community Policing Program to implement the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in our Neighborhoods. LAP provides an easy and effective method for law enforcement and other community professionals to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners, and immediately connects them to the local community-based domestic violence service program.

Contact: Michael R. Fraley, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Erie  
606 Holland Street, Erie, PA 16501  
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*Resident and Client Services – Striving for Financial Security, Independence*

Public housing residents' dreams of a financially secure and independent future are coming true through the Building Your Financial House (BYFH) program. Westmoreland County Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program partnered with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency in offering the program to HUD-assisted families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies. Participants meet once a month for eight months, learning such things as how to save money, plan for retirement, and even buy a house. The program, which was introduced in 2015, has been so successful that it is now being offered annually.

Contact: Michael L. Washowich, Executive Director, Westmoreland County Housing Authority  
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*Resident and Client Services – Nothing Old About This New Senior Initiative*

According to U.S. Census figures, Westmoreland County has a larger population of 65 and older than any other county in the state of Pennsylvania, and the numbers are increasing. As the senior population rate continues to increase, Westmoreland County Housing Authority recognized the need to implement a three-pronged initiative to help residents in this age bracket live healthier, happier, and longer lives. The initiative included an elderly wellness program that focused on diet and nutrition, a flex fit program that focused on exercises and, a pen pal program which paired seniors with first graders to encourage social interaction.

Contact: Michael L. Washowich, Executive Director, Westmoreland County Housing Authority  
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*Resident and Client Services – Stem Connection After-School Program*

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Connection After-School Program was initiated in 2015 to address the achievement gap that exists for rural, low-income children in technology. For the past three years, classes have been held at the Housing Authority of the City of Meadville (HACM) learning centers and concentrate on a variety of project-based, hands-on activities that relate to real-world experiences. Through resident engagement, broad community support, and financed by Resident Council MOU funds, 40 youth between the ages of 7-17 have participated. Proven results include increased self-confidence working on science projects, increased knowledge in STEM topics and careers, and strengthened families.

Contact: Barbara L. Houserman, Resident Initiatives Coordinator, Housing Authority of the City of Meadville  
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### *Community Revitalization* – **Phoenix Court Apartments**

Phoenix Court Apartments were constructed in 2016-2017 on a site in Atlas, PA - Northumberland County. A number of blighted properties that were severely damaged by a fire in 2013 were demolished to construct the development, which features five apartments for modest income seniors. One is available for persons with behavioral health disabilities. The total project cost is \$850,676. Construction was completed on April 30, 2017 and all are occupied. All units are visitable and one is fully accessible. This project earned the Bellamy Award given by PAHRA, which is its highest award for excellence.

Contact: Edward P. Christiano, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Northumberland County  
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### *Project Design* – **Blumberg Phase I**

Blumberg Phase I is part of the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Transformation Plan for the Sharswood neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Two of three high-rise units located on a superblock were imploded in March 2016, adjacent low-rise units were demolished mechanically, and mostly vacant properties surrounding the old site were acquired through condemnation. The plan calls for development of 1,200 units over one-quarter square mile. Two streets will be reconnected through the superblock and a third connecting street will be added. The restoration of the Ridge Avenue commercial corridor that serves Sharswood is a major goal of the plan, too.

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Philadelphia Housing Authority  
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Phone: 215-684-4216 Email: ken.granderson@pha.phila.gov

### *Resident and Client Services* – **Berks Community Health Center**

For the duration of Wellness Program delivery, coordination with mainstream healthcare providers was most challenging for Oakbrook Homes' residents. Because of the issues of Access to Care, Reading Housing Authority (RHA) entered into a partnership with a local Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to pursue funding for a satellite center. Funding was awarded, and in six months, RHA secured a neighboring property, engaged in an extensive retrofit, and entered into a long-term lease with the FQHC. The center provides key health services to individuals and families in Oakbrook Homes, Southwest Reading, and surrounding communities, by improving access to primary health care.

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400 Hancock Blvd, Reading, PA 19611  
Phone: 610-775-4813 Email: jeickhoff@readingha.org

### *Project Design* – **The Whitehall - Affordable Veterans Housing**

Mission First Housing Group renovated the historic Whitehall Inn and constructed a new addition to create 48 permanent supportive housing apartments for veterans in need -- the Whitehall Apartments. Mission First developed The Whitehall in response to a local need for housing for at-risk veterans and a national effort to end veteran's homelessness. The key project building block was a 15-year voucher contract from the Housing Authority of Chester County, which translates into \$5 million in housing assistance. The Whitehall was built using Passive House design standards for energy efficiency, which will reduce utility usage by 80% over standard construction.

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