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 Date: November 7, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State HFAs Win National Recognition for Affordable Housing Programs

WASHINGTON, DC – Twenty-three state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) programs were recognized during the National Council of State Housing Agencies’ (NCSHA) recent Annual Conference and Tradeshow. The conference was attended by more than 900 affordable housing industry professionals. Now in its 24th year, NCSHA’s awards program mission is to share information about the most successful housing programs, identify industry best practices, recognize exemplary HFA efforts, and encourage HFA innovation. The winning programs were judged on originality, innovation, a proven track record in the marketplace, cost/benefit ratio, and measurable benefits provided to targeted customers.

The winning programs were chosen from 147 entries from across the country, and programs will serve as models for other HFAs. As part of its Summit on Green Affordable Housing, a special Going Green award was given out this year in addition to the regular categories. "The Awards Program represents the best work of HFAs from across the country. It’s a great way to share information about what works. It is this sharing that, over the years, has made all HFAs more successful in achieving our common mission of providing affordable housing for those who need it," said Barbara Thompson, NCSHA’s executive director.

NCSHA’s executive committee also bestowed a special Impact Award to Tom Gleason from MassHousing and Terri Parker from the California Housing Finance Agency for inspiring and leading an effort with Fannie Mae that produced a special collaboration with Fannie Mae allowing HFAs to help more people achieve their dream of homeownership.

NCSHA is a national, nonprofit organization created by the nation’s state HFAs to assist them in increasing housing opportunities for lower income and underserved people through the financing, development, and preservation of affordable housing.

More information on all the award winners is available at www.ncsha.org.

A list of the 2008 NCSHA Annual Awards for Program Excellence Winners follows:

Category	Winner	Program	Contact
Communications: Annual Report	MaineHousing	<i>Annual Report</i>	Dan Simpson Director of Public Information MaineHousing, 353 Water Street Augusta, ME, 04330- 4633 207-626-4692

Communications: Annual Report	New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency	<i>Annual Report</i>	Joe Kuzemka Senior Graphic Designer New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency P.O. Box 18550 Trenton, NJ 08650-2085 609-278-7515
Communications: Creative Media	New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal	<i>Affordable Housing Works!</i>	Dan Irizarry Director, Communications New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal Hampton Plaza, 38-40 State Street Albany, NY 10022-4503 866-275-3427
Communications: Creative Media	Ohio Housing Finance Agency	Cost-Effective and Innovative Ways to Improve Strategic Relations and the Bottom Line	Kelly Taylor Director of Communications & Marketing Ohio Housing Finance Agency 57 East Main Street Columbus, OH 43215- 5135 614-728-4270
Communications: Promotional Materials & Newsletters	MassHousing	Homebuyer Fair Marketing Materials	Eric Gedstad Corporate Communications Manager MassHousing One Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108-3110 617-854-1079
Going Green	New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority	<i>Green Initiative</i>	Leann Holt Public Information Officer New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, 344 4th Street, SW Albuquerque, NM 87102-3206 505-767-2254
Going Green	Virginia Housing Development Authority	Green Initiative	Brian Matt Public Relations Manager Virginia Housing Development Authority 601 South Belvidere Street Richmond, VA 23220- 6504 804-343-5507

Homeownership: Empowering New Buyers	Louisiana Housing Finance Agency	Insurance Offset Program	Jeff DeGraff Public Information Director Louisiana Housing Finance Agency 2415 Quail Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-763-8771
Homeownership: Encouraging New Production	Nebraska Investment Finance Authority	Outreach Partnership Program	Andrew Rainbolt Director of Community Development Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, 200 Commerce Court, 1230 O Street Lincoln, NE 68508-1423 402-434-3900
Homeownership: Home Improvement & Rehabilitation	Virginia Housing Development Authority	Granting Freedom	Brian Matt Public Relations Manager Virginia Housing Development Authority 601 South Belvidere Street Richmond, VA 23220- 6504 804-343-5507
Management Innovation: Financial	MassHousing	Innovative Whole Loan Sale Stretches the Volume Cap Resource	Eric Gedstad Corporate Communications Manager MassHousing One Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108-3110 617-854-1079
Management Innovation: Human Resources	Tennessee Housing Development Agency	<i>The Three R's of HR</i>	Patricia M. Smith Director of Public Affairs Tennessee Housing Development Agency 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 114 Nashville, TN 37243- 0900 615-815-2185
Management Innovation: Operations	Oregon Housing and Community Services	<i>Needs Analysis Program</i>	Floyd Smith Agency Affairs Director Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE Suite B Salem, OR 97301-1266 503-986-2009

Management Innovation: Technology	New Hampshire	<i>Remote Electronic Inspection System</i>	Jane Law Communications & Special Projects Administrator New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, P.O. Box 5087, Manchester, NH 03108-5087 603-310-9255, ext. 9255
Rental Housing: Encouraging New Production	Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority	Co-Developer Mentor-Protégé Program	Kate Venne Director, Communications Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, P.O. Box 1728 Madison, WI 53701-1728 608-266-7884
Rental Housing: Multifamily Management	Ohio Housing Finance Agency	Ask An Expert online tool	Kelly Taylor Director of Communications & Marketing Ohio Housing Finance Agency 57 East Main Street Columbus, OH 43215-5135 614-728-4270
Rental Housing: Preservation & Rehabilitation	Minnesota Housing	Stabilize more than 1700 Units of Housing	Megan Ryan Communications Director Minnesota Housing 400 Sibley Street, Suite 300 St. Paul, MN 55101-1998 651-297-3566
Rental Housing: Preservation & Rehabilitation	South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority	Preserving Affordable Housing: A National Model	Clayton Ingram Public Information Officer South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority 300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard Columbia, SC 29210 803-896-9520

Special Achievement	Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance Authority	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing	Kimberly King Communications Director Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance Authority, 60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 404-679-0615
Special Needs Housing: Combating Homelessness	Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance Authority	Re-Entry Partnership Housing Program	Kimberly King Communications Director Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing and Finance Authority, 60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 404-679-0615
Special Needs Housing: Combating Homelessness	New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency	Youth Supportive Housing Initiative!	Joe Kuzemka Senior Graphic Designer New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency P.O. Box 18550 Trenton, NJ 08650-2085 609-278-7515
Special Needs Housing: Housing for Persons with Special Needs	Illinois Housing Development Authority	Home Modification Program	Jane Bilger 4204 Director, Public Affairs Illinois Housing Development Authority, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 312-836-5330
Special Needs Housing: Housing for Persons with Special Needs	MassHousing	Treehouse at Easthampton Meadow	Eric Gedstad Corporate Communications Manager MassHousing One Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108-3110 617-854-1079