

2014 Entry Form
(Complete one for each entry.)

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the program.

Entry Name _____

HFA _____

Submission Contact _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Qualified Entries must be received by **Tuesday, July 1, 2014.**

For more information about Qualified Entries, [click here to access the 2014 Entry Rules.](#)

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page.

HFA _____

Entry Name _____

Communications	Homeownership	Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Materials and Newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Empowering New Buyers <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Multifamily Management <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Combating Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs
Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
<input type="checkbox"/> State Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



Housing for Persons with Special Needs: Combating Homelessness

On February 14, 2014, Arizona was proudly able to declare an end to chronic homelessness among veterans in the City of Phoenix. Today, every chronically homeless veteran in Phoenix has a permanent place to call their own; however, our work is far from over. Our ongoing objective is to eliminate chronic homelessness throughout the State of Arizona.

Chronic homelessness is a serious and costly epidemic. According to a study by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University, chronically homeless individuals represent approximately 20 percent of all people experiencing homelessness, but they consume 80 percent of the resources. This segment of the population often cycles between homelessness, emergency rooms and hospitals, jails, and other institutional care facilities. These individuals often have a complex medical problem, a serious mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and/or alcohol or drug addiction.

In our ongoing efforts to combat this problem, we have seen firsthand how people's lives are transformed once they are safe and secure in permanent housing. Additionally by tackling chronic homelessness, more resources will be available for families and individuals who experience episodic homelessness due to traumatic life events such as job loss or health issues.

Permanent housing is more cost-effective than temporary and emergency housing structures; however, providing permanent housing is only one component to ending chronic homelessness. Individuals suffering from chronic homelessness need supportive services along with rental

assistance. These types of projects are difficult and require multiple sources of funding for development. Fortunately, Arizona has housing partners willing to step up and tackle this issue.

According to Dede Yazzie Devine, CEO and President of Native American Connections, “Everyone deserves to live in a decent and safe place. It’s a humane way to house homeless people so they can become productive individuals.” Dede is absolutely correct, and that is exactly what we’re creating in Arizona.

Over the last couple of years, several new projects have opened their doors to help combat chronic homelessness in Arizona. Stepping Stone Place in Phoenix and La Mesita in Mesa are two of the newer examples. Both projects were funded by the Arizona Department of Housing through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and are just a part of a larger regional effort to complete 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. Because of these types of projects, this goal will be achieved by next year.

Stepping Stone Place, Phoenix, Arizona

Located in the Central City Village Planning District of Phoenix, Stepping Stone Place is a permanent supportive housing community by Native American Connections for the formerly homeless, including those with HIV/AIDS or a permanent disability.

Stepping Stone Place is on a 3 acre site that formerly housed a school for unwed mothers. This redevelopment project consists of 82 low-income units with 17 of the units set aside for veterans, 20 set aside for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and 44 units for Section 8 vouchers. Two of the three existing structures were remodeled into office and community spaces. Workers built an additional building that serves as the new apartment complex.

Construction of this \$12.5 million development took 14 months and was funded by Low-Income Housing Tax Credits through ADOH and \$10.3 million of private equity investment. Major partners for the project included Bank of America, BMO Harris Bank, and CHASSE Building Team.

Residents avail themselves of case management services onsite and at the Native American Connections Service Center. Services are provided for tenants who are chronically homeless, seriously mentally ill, and/or have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. The services include alcohol/drug rehabilitation program services, mental health program services, employment services, access to entitlement benefits, counseling, education, healthcare, transportation, life skills training, and services through other community partners (legal, financial literacy, etc.).

The project was constructed to meet LEED Gold certification. The building features green building elements, such as Energy Star appliances, window sensors that trigger the air and heating system to shut off if a window is left open and sensors that automatically shut off other appliances, if left on. Other amenities include a community room, a common laundry area, tenant services, a BBQ and picnic area, and a beautiful courtyard amphitheatre. The building reflects a Native American mentality, including the “Walk in Beauty” sign at the entrance to the grounds and the sign on the window screen at the entrance of the building.

Stepping Stone is also close to the Valley Metro Light Rail system. Residents are encouraged to use the light rail or walk to nearby grocery stores, schools and amenities.

The grand opening for Stepping Stone Place took place on March 28th. Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton was on hand for the ceremony along with ADOH Director Michael Traylor.

La Mesita, Mesa

Located in Mesa, Arizona, within walking distance of the Valley Metro Light Rail, La Mesita was developed under the “Housing First” model by A New Leaf, Inc. who partnered with Native American Connections, Inc. to complete this Low-Income Housing Tax Credit project.

The “Housing First” concept places individuals into a stable environment which includes access to social and medical services. Rather than gradually working their way through various shelters or temporary housing facilities, “Housing First” individuals go immediately into permanent housing, regardless of their current circumstances. This approach is based on the belief that an individual is more likely to succeed by removing the instability that comes with being homeless.

The first phase of the La Mesita Campus provides 80 units of affordable housing with 24 of the units set aside for households with children and 30 set aside for the chronically homeless or homeless with special needs.

Supportive services for the project including access to a New Leaf’s Child Care Program, before and after school educational programs, computer training and workforce development initiatives, financial literacy and educational classes.

La Mesita was constructed to meet LEED Gold certification. The property includes a multipurpose room, pool, common laundry area, playground, exercise equipment, theater and game rooms, a Ramada and BBQ areas.

This project became a reality through various community partnerships which included the City of Mesa, the Arizona Department of Housing, the Architectural Resource Team (ART), SDCRANE CORE Joint Venture, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Additional funders for the project include Wells Fargo, National Equity Fund, RAZA Development Fund and Utah Community Reinvestment Corporation, and FHLB San Francisco.

The aging La Mesita Campus has been transformed to help address a long-term solution for homelessness. A second phase of the La Mesita Campus will eventually house a new, emergency, family homeless shelter. A third phase of the project will add an additional 30 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless and homeless with special needs.

La Mesita held their grand opening on March 31st with the Mayor of Mesa and Director Traylor on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Stepping Stone Place – Phoenix, AZ





Some of the Native American Artwork Featured at Stepping Stone Place



Stepping Stone Place Prior to the Redevelopment

La Mesita – Mesa, AZ



La Mesita Child Development Center



La Mesita Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting