



2013 Annual Awards Entry Form
(Complete one for each entry.)

Entry Name Encanto Pointe - A "Housing First" Community

HFA Arizona Department of Housing/Arizona Housing Finance Authority

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Entry form with description, check(s), and visual aids (optional) must be received by NCSHA by **Monday, July 1, 2013**.

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

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Communications	Homeownership	Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation
<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"/> Federal Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> State Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Technology
Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
<input type="checkbox"/> Multifamily Management <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combating Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



Encanto Pointe – Arizona’s First “Housing First” Community

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.

In our ongoing efforts to combat chronic homelessness, we have seen firsthand how people’s lives are transformed once they are safe and secure in housing that is supported with services that assist people to become self-sufficient. However, providing permanent housing is only one component to ending chronic homeless. Individuals and families suffering from chronic homelessness need supportive services along with rental assistance. Fortunately, Arizona has Dede Yazzie Devine at Native American Connections who was willing to step up and tackle this important issue. It is because of Dede that Arizona now has Encanto Pointe.

Located in Phoenix, Encanto Pointe is the latest housing project from Native American Connections. This 54 unit apartment complex is the state’s first ever “Housing First” community for residents that are chronically homeless.

A significant amount of time and research went into this project. Similar communities in Seattle and Salt Lake City were visited prior to the groundbreaking of Encanto Pointe and this is just part of a larger regional effort to complete 1000 units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless.

Apartments at Encanto Pointe come with a kitchen, bedroom, closet, a bathroom and bicycle storage space. They also include basic amenities such as silverware, towels and linens. In addition, the property features a common area with washers and dryers as well as a computer room and library books. Additional amenities include tenant services, BBQ and picnic areas, a secure gated courtyard, and a playground.

Supportive services for the project are provided by Valley of the Sun United Way. The supportive services include medical and behavioral health care and job placement, among other services, which enable residents to maintain their housing and move toward independence.

To obtain an apartment, applicants must get a Section 8 voucher from the City of Phoenix. They also must show a history of medical or mental-health issues. While there is a preference for veterans at Encanto Pointe, anyone who is homeless can apply.

Developed in partnership with the NRP Group, Encanto Pointe is a \$10.5 million project funded through a combination of City of Phoenix bond funds, private financing, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits awarded by the Arizona Department of Housing.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Encanto Pointe took place on February 7, 2013. Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton along with ADOH Director Michael Traylor, were on hand for the event.

Moving forward, Encanto Pointe will be the model for "Housing First" projects in Arizona. To learn more about this amazing project, please visit, <http://www.nativeconnections.org/>.

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