

CMHA RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Awards acknowledged from NAHRO and HUD

NAHRO AWARDS

CMHA received a total of 16 awards from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) at the Boston conference this summer. NAHRO gives national recognition to innovative housing and community development projects, programs, and services throughout the country.

Each of these CMHA programs won a NAHRO Award of Merit for Housing and Community Development:

- HCVP/HOME Choice Partnership
- Landlord Portal Creation & Roll-Out
- Tremont Pointe
- Independent Living Initiative
- Energy Efficient Laundries
- Neighborhood Network Computer Lab
- Lakeview Terrace Cultural Arts Program
- Generation Success: Teens Achieving Greatness
- Family Jamboree
- Spanish American Heritage Festival

Each of these CMHA programs won a NAHRO Award of Merit in Housing and Community Development and was also entered in the National Awards of Excellence competition:

- Building Blocks of Leadership Program
- Brother to Brother Health and Wellness Rap Session
- Maintenance Employee Training Program
- Community Playground Build
- West 101 Place: A HOPE VI Project
- HCVP Luncheon Workshop Series for Landlords

THE HOME CHOICE PROGRAM

A unique partnership between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and CMHA is garnering national acclaim for helping Ohioans move out of nursing facilities and back into the community. At a recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Policy conference, Ohio was singled out for its efforts to help those in long-term care facilities move back into their communities and homes.

The ODJFS and CMHA partnership is part of the statewide HOME Choice program, which helps elderly or Ohioans with disabilities in long-term care facilities locate housing, set up their new home, and connect to necessary community services. The partnership has already helped 12 individuals in Cuyahoga County transition to the community and is currently helping six more move into a home.

HUD is showcasing the partnership between ODJFS and CMHA as an example of how agencies can collaborate to assist people with disabilities to return to the community. The federal agency recently invited both ODJFS and CMHA to speak at the bi-annual HUD Fair Housing Policy conference. In addition, John Trasvina, HUD assistant secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, presented ODJFS and CMHA with an award at the 2010 National Fair Housing Policy Conference in New Orleans on July 22.

“We enjoy being part of such a wonderful partnership,” said CMHA's Chief of Staff and Operations Jeffery K. Patterson. “This program and relationship are an integral part of our efforts to increase the number of housing opportunities available to persons with disabilities.”