

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2012

**2012 Director's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community
Development Recipients Announced**

COLUMBUS – Recipients of the 2012 Director's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development were announced during the Ohio Conference of Community Development's annual summer meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2012. Awards were presented in four categories; Affordable Housing, Community and Economic Development, Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and Innovation in Housing and Community Development. The award nominations were submitted and evaluated by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Development.

"We are proud to present these awards and recognize the success of our local governments and communities," said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "The project work our honorees were engaged in and completed will improve their communities and the lives of some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens, as well as create an atmosphere for economic growth."

The 2012 Director's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development winners are:

Affordable Housing Award

Haller-Norval Apartments, Coleman Professional Services and WSOS Community Action Commission

This project was in collaboration with the City of Lima and Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin counties. Coleman Professional Services developed and constructed housing units for clientele of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. Utilizing Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) funds, the project consists of eight new housing units that are Energy Star and Enterprise Green Communities compliant.

Accepting the award were Don Corley, Housing Development Coordinator, WSOS Community Action Commission; Jodi Hepler, Operations Director, Coleman Professional Services; Alice Giesken, Mental Health Recovery and Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties; and Pete White, City of Lima Land Bank.

Community and Economic Development Award

City of Cambridge

Funds from the Community Development Block Grant Tier II Downtown Revitalization Program were used on the Wheeling Avenue District project, which was leveraged with funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Public Works, and the city's Revolving Loan Fund. The focus was specifically facade improvement and code compliance. Property owners benefiting in the target area were given the opportunity to make improvements and upgrades to facades, windows and HVAC systems, as well as to assist with upgrades of electrical, plumbing, and new roofs for buildings that were not up to code.

Accepting the award were Mike Edwards, Downtown Coordinator and Kim Haught, Interim Director for Economic and Community Development, City of Cambridge.

Homelessness and Supportive Housing Award

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

This project was accomplished by using funds from the Emergency Shelter Grant Discretionary Program, and in partnership with the Lancaster Rotary Club. The Emergency Homeless Shelter for Families provides temporary housing and other emergency services to homeless families in Fairfield County, and was renovated to expand capacity and make each unit self-contained. The renovation benefits homeless families residing at the Emergency Homeless Shelter for Families in Fairfield County.

Accepting the award were Kellie Ailes, Executive Director and Carol Wagner, Social Services Director, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency.

Innovation in Housing and Community Development Award

Board of Trumbull County Commissioners and Coleman Professional Services

Using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, this project was in collaboration with Coleman Professional Services (aka Behavioral Health) and the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board. The funds were used to purchase and rehabilitate a foreclosed century home in the downtown area of the City of Warren. The project created a transitional housing facility benefiting homeless youth ages 18 to 26 who are either exiting the foster care system, a mental health or drug addiction program, or a correctional institution.

Accepting the award were Bill Miller, Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission; Julie Green, Grants Coordinator, Trumbull County Planning Commission; and Tammy Weaver, Coleman Professional Services.

The Director's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development recognize communities that have made significant differences with projects that impact the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents in their areas. In 2012, 14 nominations were submitted from Ohio communities that use grant programs administered by the Office of Community Development. Eligible projects for the awards are from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program, and the Ohio Housing Trust Fund programs. The nominations were evaluated by the Office of Community Development for their impact on the community and adherence to guidelines and regulations associated with the grant requirements.

*The **Office of Community Development**, located within the Ohio Department of Development's Community Services Division, provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio's communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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