



CALL FOR ENTRIES

2026 HOUSING& HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Housing&'s Housing Achievement Awards will be presented at the organization's **35th Annual Meeting & Housing Expo**, taking place on May 13th, 2026 from 9:00am-3:00pm at The Omni Shoreham Hotel (2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC 20008). Awards will be presented to organizations and individuals that have provided outstanding affordable housing projects, programs, and support for low- and moderate-income residents in Housing&'s membership footprint (extending across Greater Washington, Baltimore, and Richmond). The purpose of these awards is to recognize creative and innovative approaches that demonstrate the power of collective impact and public-private partnership—advancing high-quality developments and programs that deliver catalytic, measurable benefits for residents across the region.

The winner in each category will receive a commemorative award and recognition in the official program book. In addition, award recipients will be featured in pre-event promotions, highlighted in digital and video marketing materials, and receive expanded public relations visibility leading up to and during the event.

2026 Housing Achievement Award Categories

- Developer of the Year
- Best Affordable Housing Project
- The & Award
- Emerging Leader
- Racial Equity in Action

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Developer of the Year – Recognizes the outstanding overall achievement and impact an affordable housing developer has made during the **2025 calendar year**. As Housing&'s premier honor, this award celebrates a developer whose body of work demonstrates sustained leadership, innovation, and measurable impact across their pipeline, including the creation and/or preservation of affordable housing throughout the Baltimore-Washington-Richmond region. Submissions should highlight the breadth of projects, strategic partnerships, and community impact achieved during the year.

Who can submit nominations? Housing& members; Self-nominations welcomed.

Intended Recipients: Nonprofit and for-profit developers

2. Best Affordable Housing Project – Recognizes an exemplary affordable housing development in the Baltimore-Washington-Richmond region. Eligible developments may include both rental and

homeownership housing and must have been newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated and placed in service by **December 31, 2025**. This award honors a single project that demonstrates excellence in design, financing, and execution. Submissions should highlight innovative approaches to funding and development, strategic partnerships, community-building elements, and the project's overall impact on residents and the surrounding neighborhood.

Who can submit nominations? Housing& members; Self-nominations welcomed.

Intended Recipients: Nonprofit and for-profit developers

4. The & Award – Recognizes the exemplary contributions of an individual or group that have been a true partner in advancing, preserving, and strengthening affordable housing and communities across the region. This award honors the legacy of Virginia Peters, a tireless champion for affordable housing for more than 30 years and a driving force behind the founding of Housing& in 1991. Ms. Peters championed the “double bottom line”—the belief that it is possible to do good while doing well—a philosophy that continues to anchor Housing& and guide collaborative efforts to build thriving, equitable communities. Submissions should highlight meaningful partnerships, cross-sector collaboration, and contributions that strengthen housing stability and resident well-being.

Who can submit nominations? Nominations must come from a third-party Housing& member. No self-nominations in this category.

Intended Recipients: Any individual, organization, or collaborative group providing outstanding support or partnership to housing or service organizations; past and potential recipients include advocates, educational institutions and universities, elected officials, faith-based organizations, for-profit companies, food banks and nutrition programs, government agencies, healthcare and health systems, members of the business community, neighborhood and community leaders, philanthropic institutions and foundations, poverty reduction and economic mobility organizations, technology and data partners, homeless services providers, and utility providers.

6. Emerging Leader - Recognizes an emerging leader under the age of 40 who has demonstrated exemplary dedication, innovation, and notable achievements in preserving, developing, servicing, or financing affordable housing in their respective field. Submissions should highlight creativity, collaboration, strategic partnerships, and measurable impact that advances the mission of affordable housing and strengthens communities.

Who can submit nominations? Nominations must come from a third-party Housing& member. No self-nominations in this category.

Intended Recipients: Emerging professionals across the affordable housing ecosystem, including but not limited to developers, resident services staff, property managers, lenders, financiers, architects, engineers, advocates, nonprofit leaders, technology partners, and other professionals advancing affordable housing and community impact.

7. Racial Equity in Action – Recognizes an organization or institution that has successfully integrated racial equity in its policies, practices, programs, and budgets. The resulting product and process should reduce racial inequities and improve success for Black and brown communities served by the organization. Entries should highlight how the applicant is embedding the values of racial equity into their operations, creating solutions that drive equitable and just outcomes for communities of color.

Who can submit nominations? Housing& members; Self nominations welcomed.

Intended Recipients: **All Housing& members actively integrating racial equity in their work**, including affordable housing developers, architects, engineers, advocates, construction and green building firms, financiers, lenders, government agencies, philanthropic organizations, property managers, resident services teams, technology and data partners, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, homeless services providers, utility companies, and faith-based organizations.

ENTRY GUIDELINES & FAQs:

1. All entries must [complete the entry form online](#) (a copy is also included at the end of this document for you to review).

2. At the end of the entry form, please upload a one-page narrative explaining why the nominated organization, project, program, or individual deserves recognition in the selected award category. The narrative should include a clear description of the nominee and its impact.

Where applicable, please provide relevant details such as the number of housing units or individuals served, targeted affordability levels, project start or completion date, total development or program cost, sources and uses of funds, and key partners involved. Be sure to highlight the creative and/or innovative aspects of the nominee's work, along with any additional achievements or characteristics that align with the judging criteria outlined below.

3. Applicants may also submit up to three pages of additional supporting material (i.e., newspaper articles, photos, awards, testimonials, etc.).

4. Please do not submit any multimedia (e.g. CD or DVD) presentations, as these will not be considered.

5. Entries may be submitted in multiple categories; however, no more than one award will be made to each organization.

6. A \$150 entry fee must be submitted with each submission via the entry form.

7. Organizations/individuals who submit an award must be current Housing& members at the time of submission. If the organization/individual needs to join Housing& please contact Trianna Overton at toverton@housingand.org.

8. The intended award recipient must be a current Housing& member at the time of submission (with the exception of the The & Award category). If the organization/individual needs to renew their membership or join Housing&, the appropriate form can be provided by contacting Trianna Overton at toverton@housingand.org.

9. Self-nominations (Developer of the Year, Best Affordable Housing Project and Racial Equity In Action) and nominations by other Housing& members (The & Award and Emerging Leader) are encouraged.

10. Prior year winners (2025) are not eligible to receive an award for the same category in 2026.

11. If there is no contest in a category (less than two entries have been submitted), there will be no award presented.

12. Winners will be selected by a panel of independent judges familiar with affordable housing development and programs.

13. Winners will be notified ahead of the event and will be required to: 1) provide materials suitable for inclusion in the digital program and 2) designate **one** individual to participate in video production.

14. All entries must be received electronically via the [application](#) by March 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Award-winning projects/programs must exemplify an innovative, state-of-the-art response to providing affordable housing and/or supportive services. Applicants submitting nominations for Developer of the Year and the Best Affordable Housing Project should address each of the following criteria in their narrative application. Judges will give special consideration to the following:

- Address a particularly pressing affordable housing need.
- Demonstrate an efficient use of resources.
- Use creative financing or innovative tools to provide housing for a difficult-to-serve population.
- Show responsiveness to environmental issues and green building techniques.
- Promote outstanding quality in design and construction and/or service delivery.
- Serve a population with intensive service needs.
- Inclusion of community life programs that improve the quality of life of the residents of an affordable housing development and/or residents of the surrounding neighborhood.
- Illustrate organization nimbleness and ability to adapt to shifts in economic and market trends.

2. Awards will be made at the discretion of the judges. In the event the judges do not agree, the Housing& Board of Directors will make the final decision.

2026 HOUSING& HOUSING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

IMPORTANT: This is a draft form for your reference. All submissions must be completed via the [online application](#).

AWARD CATEGORY:

IS THIS A SELF-NOMINATION?

ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

NOMINATED PROJECT / PROGRAM / ORGANIZATION / INDIVIDUAL NAME:

ADDRESS / LOCATION OF NOMINATED PROJECT:

Please upload a **one-page description** of the project, program, organization, or individual. If appropriate, include the number of units or persons served, affordable income levels targeted, when started or opened, total development or program cost, sources and uses of funds, and **all partners involved**. Please be sure to address the creative and/or innovative aspects of the nominated individual, organization, and/or its project or program and any other characteristics that might meet the judging criteria outlined in the award guidelines.

The deadline to apply is the Close of Business on March 20, 2026. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please contact Trianna Overton at toverton@housingand.org with questions.