



May 2, 2012

Dear COSCDA Member:

COSCD A invites you to submit applications for its annual awards recognition program. The awards will be presented during COSCD A's 2012 Annual Training Conference, in Gulfport, Mississippi on September 18. The awards are bestowed annually to a COSCD A member and to state programs, based on membership nominations. The awards are designed to provide our members with national recognition.

JAMES REEVES MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Named in honor of long time COSCD A member, James Reeves, this award recognizes an individual COSCD A member who has made the most significant and sustained contribution to the work and mission of COSCD A during the last five years.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR INNOVATION

This award recognizes innovative activities, policies or programs that have been implemented at the state level, which have demonstrated success in solving community needs.

COSCD A STERLING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

This award recognizes state programs that have demonstrated, during a sustained period, positive results in improving the lives of lower income persons in the following program areas:

- Community Development/Economic Development
- Housing Assistance
- Homelessness Assistance/Prevention

The Awards Committee will bestow a Sterling Achievement Award in each of the program areas identified above.

The awards presentation will be made during the President's Reception at COSCD A's Annual Training Conference. Additionally each winner of the COSCD A Sterling Achievement and President's Award for Innovation will be provided an opportunity to make a presentation to the COSCD A membership during the Member Services Committee meeting on September 19.

On behalf of the Member Services Committee and the Awards Review Committee, I encourage you to take a few minutes and reflect on a deserving COSCD A colleague, activity or project and submit a nomination for one of these prestigious awards. Let us celebrate our success and honor our colleagues who have made a significant contribution to COSCD A or have undertaken a project that highlights the state's leadership role in community /economic development, housing and homelessness.

The COSCDA Awards Review Committee will select award winners based on their assessment of the project characteristics:

- Role in overall community revitalization
 - Impact on the community by adding substantially to the affordable housing stock or improving the economic conditions in a community
 - Employs cost-effective or innovative design and/or construction, including energy efficiency and sustainable development
- Received broad community support, including state and local government financial assistance.
- Addresses a unique challenge
- Demonstrates creative problem-solving
- Overall cost-effectiveness of program/project
- Product or service transferable or adaptable to other states through nationally accessible funding resources
- Demonstrate how it has made a measurable positive change in the lives of LMI persons

Award submissions will be evaluated against the criteria and not against each other.

Winners will be notified no later than **August 13, 2012** in order to make the necessary arrangements to attend the Presidential Reception and Awards Recognition Ceremony during the COSCDA Annual Conference in September.

The COSCDA award applications are easy to complete and you can do so online at <http://www.coscda.org/annualawards.asp>. The online applications provide an opportunity to submit supporting documentation. Again, we encourage you to showcase a project from your state that meets the criteria outlined above. **The deadline for submission of the award applications is July 6, 2012.** If you have any questions, please contact Dianne Taylor, COSCDA's Executive Director at 202.293.5820.

Sincerely,



Steve Charleston
Chairperson
Member Services Committee