

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 24, 2006

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY**

211 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

**Contact:** Paula Brightbill or Phil Friday  
717.780.3915

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY  
HONORS TEN LENDERS FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM EXCELLENCE**

*Awards ceremony held at Harrisburg Hilton Hotel*

(HARRISBURG) The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency recognized the accomplishments of ten mortgage lending companies at a ceremony held today in the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel. These lenders were selected for their outstanding performances in 2005 by helping thousands of Commonwealth families buy homes. More than 100 participating institutions statewide were considered.

Gary E. Lenker, Vice President and Director of Operations of Donco Construction, Dauphin, who also serves as PHFA Vice Chairman, presented Awards for Excellence to the following companies: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; First Horizon Home Loan Corporation; GMAC Mortgage Corporation; Honesdale National Bank; Howard Hanna Financial Services; Jersey Shore State Bank; Mortgage America; National City Mortgage Company; Sovereign Bank; and, West Penn Financial.

The lenders who received awards were recognized for their production of loans and for additional honors. PHFA's top producer was **National City Mortgage Company**, which delivered 508 loans and was also recognized for the best quality "purchase packages."

**Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.**, was second highest with 446 loans and was top producer of PHFA Keystone Home PLUS and closing cost assistance loans (primarily for families with lower incomes).

Third highest producer was **Jersey Shore State Bank** (299 loans), which also delivered the most HOMEstead Loans (for rural housing) and had the most new construction production.

**Sovereign Bank** finished fourth with 271 loans, and was also top producer of loans for minority homebuyers.

**Mortgage America** was fifth with 265 loans.

-more-

**PHFA HONORS TEN LENDERS**

March 24, 2006

Page two

**Howard Hanna Financial Services** tied with Honesdale National Bank for best overall quality loan packages and produced the sixth highest number of loans (257).

**First Horizon Home Loan Corporation** was the seventh highest producer with 240, and delivered the most Access Program loans for persons with disabilities.

Finishing eighth overall in production with 208 loans, **Honesdale National Bank** also received recognition for the best quality underwriting packages and tied with Howard Hanna Mortgage Services for best overall quality loan packages.

**West Penn Financial** was the ninth highest loan producer with 201 loans.

**GMAC Mortgage Corporation** rounded out the top ten with 198 loans.

In all, these ten organizations produced 2,893 loans, 44 percent of the 6,638 total loans delivered by the more than 100 PHFA participating lenders in 2005.

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is the Commonwealth's leading provider of capital for affordable homes and apartments. It has operated a homeownership program, directed primarily at first-time buyers, since 1982, and has helped more than 110,000 families buy homes of their own.

Funding for the program comes from the sale of PHFA securities to investors across the nation.

-end-