

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
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PHFA recognizes state's housing counselors
*Counselors perform vital service by providing consumers
with education about housing and foreclosure issues*

HARRISBURG – PHFA honored the work of the state's private sector housing counselors yesterday at the Harrisburg Hilton. These counseling agencies extend the work of PHFA by helping state residents with questions about home ownership and home foreclosure, working to inform consumers so they make educated housing decisions.

"I want to thank our dedicated housing counselors for the long hours they devote to helping people with important housing decisions," said PHFA Executive Director and CEO Brian A. Hudson Sr. "Their efforts help thousands of Pennsylvanians find affordable housing, whether they need rental housing or are ready for the responsibilities of homeownership. In doing this important work, they touch lives and have a lasting impact."

Housing counselors from across the state attended, representing more than 80 counseling agencies. The audience of counselors was thanked in brief remarks by Hudson and by state Banking and Securities Secretary and PHFA Board Chairman Glenn Moyer.

The event began with the presentation of the Award of Excellence to Sarah Gerecke, deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Housing Counseling at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

At HUD, Gerecke's responsibilities include the launch of the Office of Housing Counseling as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act. Her 30-year career in the affordable housing field includes work on innovative programs for housing homeless and special needs people, as well as positions in local government and the private sector.

In addition to the honor for Gerecke, awards were presented to those individuals and counseling agencies exhibiting exemplary service to Pennsylvania residents:

Best Counselor Award

- **Stephanie Butler**, Mt. Airy USA, Philadelphia
- **Gladys Delgado**, Tabor Community Services, Inc., Lancaster
- **Irene Keirsbilck**, Community Action Southwest, Washington
- **Chad Pettus**, NeighborWorks Northeastern PA, Scranton
- **Kay Stahl**, PA Interfaith Community Programs, Inc., Gettysburg

- **Karen Washburn**, St. Martin Center, Inc., Erie

Best Agency Award

- **BASE, Inc.**, Lancaster
- **Center for Family Services, Inc.**, Meadville
- **Credit Counseling Center**, Richboro
- **Butler County Homeownership Program**, Butler
- **NeighborWorks Northeastern PA**, Scranton
- **Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.**, Uniontown

Best Practice Award

- **Tabor Community Services, Inc.**, Lancaster

Community Partnership Award

- **Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley**, Bethlehem

Lender Partnership Award

- **Diversified Community Services**, Philadelphia

Funder Partnership Award

- **Tabor Community Services, Inc.**, Lancaster

Special Achievement Award -- HEMAP

- **Randy Foster**, Indiana County Community Action Program, Indiana

About PHFA

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency works to provide affordable homeownership and rental housing options for older adults, low- and moderate-income families, and people with special housing needs. Through its carefully managed mortgage programs and investments in multifamily housing developments, PHFA also promotes economic development across the state. Since its creation by the legislature in 1972, it has generated nearly \$11.8 billion of funding for more than 157,300 single-family home mortgage loans, helped fund the construction of 122,590 rental units, and saved the homes of more than 47,750 families from foreclosure. PHFA programs and operations are funded primarily by the sale of securities and from fees paid by program users, not by public tax dollars. The agency is governed by a 14-member board.

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