

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathryn Gorman
(202) 289-3500 ext.7223
kgorman@nahro.org

Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino Receives National Award For Its Many Initiatives To Create Increased Accountability

SAN BERNARDINO, CA (June 15, 2011) —The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) has been named a 2011 recipient of the prestigious National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Award for its efforts to increase open communication and accountability amongst communities in the San Bernardino region.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs through the nation. HACSB's Landlord Portal initiative opened a line of communication between the Authority and landlords resulting in reduced costs, improved efficiencies, promotion of green programs, and awareness of financial standings with 24-hour access to view monthly statements and 1099's online. In 2009, the "Let's Give Back" Charity Campaign allowed HACSB to give back to the disadvantaged communities of San Bernardino by matching all staff donations. HACSB's Pay for Performance program asked employees to be more accountable and made compensation based directly upon job performance. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, HACSB was able to find and terminate housing assistance to those families or individuals who committed housing violations resulting in \$1.5 million in court ordered restitution, new laws, and programs making Program Integrity Through Collaborative Partners a success. The award will be presented to the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino at NAHRO's National Conference in Louisville, KY.

"NAHRO members have been leading the way with innovative solutions to address resident services, management and operations, affordable housing preservation and sustainable development, and economic revitalization in their communities," said NAHRO Senior Vice President Betsey Martens. "They have stepped up, taken advantage of opportunities to find new

and creative ways to address local housing needs and we are proud to recognize their achievements."

"In these times of economic changes and budget uncertainty in our nation, these awards are particularly important because it showcases those agencies and authorities who overcame the adversities and flourished," said NAHRO CEO Saul N Ramirez Jr. "Now more than ever with the federal governments' role in flux, we need local housing authorities to step up. This years' award winners are doing exactly that."

The 2011 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories.

Administrative Innovation recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation. **Program Innovation — Affordable Housing** includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing. **Program Innovation — Community Revitalization** includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing. **Program Innovation — Resident and Client Services** includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency. **Project Design** includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, established in 1933, is a membership organization of over 20,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

###