



PRESS RELEASE

COSCAR Announces 2022 Sterling Achievement and Presidential Innovation Awardees

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The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCAR) recently announced winners of its annual awards. Award recipients were recognized during COSCAR's Annual Conference held September 12 - 14, 2022 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Sterling Achievement Award recognizes state programs that have demonstrated - during a sustained period - positive results in improving the lives of lower income persons in community development, housing, homelessness, and disaster recovery. COSCAR's Presidential Award honors members who curate innovative activities, policies, or programs that demonstrate success in solving community needs. The James Reeves Member Contribution Award recognizes an individual COSCAR member who has made the most significant and sustained contribution to the work and mission of COSCAR during the last five years

Sterling Achievement Award – Community Development Hempstead Lake State Parish Education Center (New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery)

The New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and New York State Office Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation collaborated on the Environmental Education and Resiliency Center at Hempstead Lake State Park, a part of a larger \$35 million state and HUD investment. The center is located in Nassau County near historically underserved and ethnically diverse communities north of the Park.

Sterling Achievement Award – Disaster Recovery Schuylkill County Mitigation (Pennsylvania Department of Economic & Community Development)

Schuylkill County proposed a unique flood mitigation project that would restore 10.5 acres of existing wetlands as well as the creation of 5.4 additional acres of wetlands. The project was designed to divert flood waters from the Swatara Creek into the wetlands reducing and eliminating the devastating flooding of homes and businesses.

**Sterling Achievement Award – Homelessness
Unity (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation)**

The Alaskan Housing Stabilization and Recovery Program served over 1,000 people experiencing housing instability. This program pairs housing stability services with up to 12 months of rental assistance for eligible households using Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the U.S. Treasury.

**Sterling Achievement Award – Housing
Freedom Court-Mount Carmel (Pennsylvania Department of Economic & Community
Development)**

Pennsylvanian's Northumberland County targeted a low-income senior housing project to support veterans and the aging population with mobility and accessibility modifications. The concept of a specialized project design and land re-use has been transformative and obtained community support for its success.

**Presidential Award for Innovation
Century Sunrise (New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery)**

Johnson City of New York State created 105 apartments affordable to individuals and families at multiple levels of income. The development addresses the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery's (NY GOSR) goal of rehabilitating and reusing existing buildings outside of the floodplain to provide new mixed-income residences and commercial space which was hit hard in 2011 by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.

**James Reeves Member Contribution Award
Jean Noble (Arkansas Economic Development Commission)**

Jean Noble is a long-time active COSCDA member and serves as an at-large board member. Ms. Noble leads the Arkansas Community Development Block Grant program as Director of Grants Division with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

ABOUT: The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA) is a national association representing state agencies dedicated to housing and community development. COSCDA members administer resources provided through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development (HUD-CPD). States target investments supporting infrastructure, affordable housing, disaster recovery, homelessness initiatives, and job and business development among other activities.