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Virginia Receives National Recognition for Housing Policy Efforts

RICHMOND - The National Council of State Housing Agencies recently recognized Virginia for outstanding achievement in the development of a statewide housing policy.

"I am pleased NCSHA recognized Virginia's work in developing a statewide housing policy framework beginning with the work of the Virginia Housing Commission to build broad bipartisan consensus on our Housing Guiding Principles," said Governor McDonnell. "My administration has put together a broad group of housing professionals, including for-profit, non-profit and governmental representatives, to expand these principles into the state's first housing policy framework so that my cabinet secretaries and their agencies can better address Virginia's critical housing needs."

The NCSHA award recognizes agencies demonstrating the most efficient, effective, and creative use of resources to achieve state policy objectives. Virginia's housing policy initiative won for showing that state policymaking can effectively link the executive and legislative branches of government with stakeholder groups to reach consensus on desired housing outcomes, while forging strong coalitions to address Virginia's housing needs well into the future.

In April, 2010, Governor McDonnell issued **executive order number 10** to establish broad goals and policy direction related to housing policy and to coordinate a comprehensive and effective housing policy with other public policy areas and initiatives across multiple secretariats within the executive branch. Governor McDonnell signed two bills into law this year to support important housing initiatives. Senate Bill 786 helped ensure that foreclosure mitigation counselors would not be restricted by undue licensure requirements. House Bill 1950 enhanced the Livable Homes Tax Credit which encourages housing accessibility.

NCSHA announced that the Virginia Housing Development Authority won three additional housing awards in several categories this year, including:

- Housing for Persons with Special Needs - for the development of a program to assist persons with disabilities;
- Human Resources - for its succession management program; and
- Creative Media - for its marketing efforts with the Virginia Association of Realtors.

About NCSHA

NCSHA is a national, nonprofit organization created by the nation's state housing finance authorities to assist them in increasing housing opportunities for lower income and underserved people through the financing, development, and preservation of affordable housing.

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