



## **THE ROBERT L. WOODSON, JR., AWARD**

**FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP  
IN REDUCING REGULATORY BARRIERS  
TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**An Award Program of the  
America's Affordable Communities Initiative  
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

HUD's **Robert L. Woodson, Jr., Award** is an award program designed to acknowledge and honor those communities that are expanding affordable housing opportunities by reducing regulatory barriers. In so doing, these communities are creating an environment supportive of the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing throughout America. This award program is a component of the Department's *America's Affordable Communities Initiative: Bringing Homes Within Reach Through Regulatory Reform.*

## **Robert L. Woodson, Jr., Award**

### **A. Eligibility**

Recipients of the Robert L. Woodson, Jr., Award will be selected from nominated states, counties, cities, towns, townships, and other municipalities that have significantly reduced regulatory barriers to the construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families.

This national award program will recognize state and local governments that have taken a leadership role in regulatory barrier removal, thereby serving as national models for others to follow. Although no monetary award will be given, recipients of the award will receive national recognition. HUD will widely disseminate the activities of the award recipients through a variety of publications including the website of HUD's America's Affordable Communities Initiative ([www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities](http://www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities)).

### **B. What is a Regulatory Barrier to Affordable Housing?**

Barriers are public statutes, ordinances, regulatory requirements, fees, processes, and procedures that significantly impede the development or availability of affordable housing without providing commensurate health or safety benefits. Affordable housing is decent, quality housing that America's hard-working families can buy or rent by spending no more than 30 percent of their income, which means they would not be forced to sacrifice other necessities of life. Regulatory barriers may have serious adverse impacts upon the affordable housing supply and the lives of those who need such housing.

The lack of affordable housing has multiple adverse impacts on the community at large, including the following:

- Middle-income workers, including workforce heroes, such as nurses, police officers, firefighters, teachers, and other vital employees, who often live far from the very communities they serve.
- Workers who are forced to live far from their jobs must regularly commute long distances by car, increasing congestion on roads and highways, contributing to air pollution, and resulting in significant losses in productivity.
- Low-income, minority, and disabled persons have an especially difficult time finding suitable, affordable housing alternatives near their place of employment.
- Elderly Americans – soon to include the “baby boom” generation – are increasingly unable to find affordable homes or apartments near their children or grandchildren.
- Young families just starting out in life may not be able to find appropriate housing choices in the very communities in which they were raised.

### **C. Nominations**

Interested individuals, local or national organizations, nonprofit organizations, builders, developers, faith-based organizations, or governmental entities may submit a nomination to recognize **states or local governments** that have demonstrated extraordinary achievement in eliminating regulatory barriers to housing affordability. State and local governments may nominate themselves or other state or local governments for this award.

## D. Selection Criteria

A committee formed of members of HUD's ***America's Affordable Communities Initiative Team (AACI)*** will evaluate the nominations. The AACI Team consists of senior-level HUD staff representing all major components of the Department, who have been selected for their expertise in housing issues and their knowledge of regulatory barriers. In selecting award winners, the AACI Team will consider the following factors:

### 1. Nature of the Regulatory Reform

**1a. Scope.** The breadth and scope of the reforms adopted by the nominated state, locality, or group of localities that allows increased development, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. Preference will be given to efforts that involve multiple reforms as part of a larger strategy of regulatory barrier removal. Actions that assist only a limited number of projects, but fail to also address broad-based institutional and systemic barriers to the overall affordable housing supply will not qualify.

**1b. Magnitude of Regulatory Barrier Addressed.** Many regulatory barriers involve deep-seated economic and institutional preferences and interests. This factor will give greater preference and weight to those regulatory reforms that have the greatest impact on affordable housing availability in the nominated state or local government.

**2. Impact:** Demonstrated impact of the regulatory change on the cost and supply of new and rehabilitated affordable housing in the community.

**3. Transferability:** The degree to which the reform implemented in a community may be successfully applied throughout the nation.

**4. Partnership:** The degree to which public, private, and nonprofit sectors and key constituencies worked together to accomplish the regulatory reform.

**5. Innovative Approaches:** The degree to which the community has applied new approaches and solutions to address regulatory barriers.

#### **E. Nomination Instructions**

Applications must include the following:

- Completed checklist of materials;
- All required materials;
- Supporting documentation, as determined necessary.

Photographs of representative projects resulting from the instituted reforms are permitted, but not required. The minimum font size is 11 points.

Application packets must be submitted to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Room 10276, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-0500. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement notice from the AACI Team upon receipt.

# NOMINATION DATA SHEET

## 1. Award Consideration Category:

Each application may be nominated for one award category only. Please check the appropriate box before beginning the application process.

State\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ County\_\_\_\_\_

Town, Township, or other Incorporated Municipality\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Nominating Organization/Individual:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (business/day): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (business/day): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Nominated Government (Separate form for each nomination):

Government Name & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Government Contact person with knowledge of the reforms:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (business/day): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (business/day): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Essay:

Please respond to each of the essay topics in narrative form using the following guidelines:

- Headers on each page should include the applicant's name and the contact name.
- **Each essay response should be no more than four typed pages. Alternatively, the total for all four essay questions should not exceed 16 typed pages.**
- Provide supporting documentation.
- Ensure that all responses are neatly typed and double-spaced, and have one-inch margins on all sides.
- Identify each essay element described below with the appropriate identifying alphabetical header (A-D).

**A.** Briefly describe the condition of the affordable housing market and regulatory constraints in your community prior to the adopted reform.

**B.** Briefly describe the political and institutional environment that resulted in recognition by the community that the instituted reform was necessary.

**C.** Provide a brief summary of the actions taken by the community to address one or more regulatory barriers, including implementation measures. Briefly describe why each particular reform was selected.

**D.** Briefly describe or cite, to the best of your knowledge, using empirical or anecdotal evidence, the impact that these reforms have had in the nominated community on the production, cost, supply, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. Include number of additional units, construction costs, housing prices, and rents. Describe, where applicable, any relevant partnership or collaboration involved in

the initiation, development, or implementation of the reform, including names and contacts of participating organizations. These individuals or groups may be contacted about the project submitted.

## **5. Supporting Documentation:**

In addition to the narrative statement, the applicant is encouraged to submit documentation to support the statements made in the narrative statements. Such documentation may include the following:

**A.** New or modified statutes, ordinances, administrative processes, handbooks, resolutions, etc., which provide evidence to support adoption of the regulatory reforms; and

**B.** Data, newspaper articles, studies, etc., which provide evidence that the adopted reforms have been fully implemented and show the impact of the reforms upon the supply of affordable housing in the community. Photographs and other evidence of any development resulting from the reforms are also permitted.

Extraneous documentation (documentation not directly supportive of the narrative statements) is strongly discouraged.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.** The information collection items contained in this document have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) and assigned OMB control number 2501-0020. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**JOIN THE AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

Whether or not you choose to nominate a community for this award, the AACI Team invites you to continue to work toward increasing the supply of affordable housing in your community, and to visit the following websites:

[www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities](http://www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities), or <http://www.regbarriers.org/>. If you would like to receive periodic updates on regulatory reform activities, please join HUD's listserv at [rbc@huduser.org](mailto:rbc@huduser.org). If you have specific questions please contact Bryant Applegate at [A.\\_Bryant\\_Applegate@hud.gov](mailto:A._Bryant_Applegate@hud.gov).