



HOUSING IOWA '26 CONFERENCE

HOUSINGIOWA AWARD NOMINATION



1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

HousingIowaConference.com

#HIC26

The Iowa Finance Authority is proud to announce the nineteenth annual HousingIowa Awards. This awards program recognizes outstanding leadership and innovation across all spectrums of affordable housing in Iowa.

The award winners will be announced at the 2026 HousingIowa Conference on the morning of Wednesday, September 9 at the Iowa Events Center.

You are welcome to nominate yourself or your organization's projects or initiatives. Please submit only one entry per category and the same entry cannot be submitted in more than one category.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

1. HousingIowa Awards
 - Multifamily Housing Development
 - Single-Family Housing Development
 - Special Needs Housing Development (Homelessness, housing for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, etc.)
 - Innovation (Best of affordable housing design, collaborations, resources leveraged or other unique solutions that help meet an Iowa affordable housing need.)
2. Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award
3. Mark Sertterh Friend of Housing Award

ENTRIES, DEADLINE & NOTIFICATION

Please send one completed application as a pdf file for each entry(s) by the deadline of Friday, June 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to housingiowaconf@iowafinance.com. Applicants must receive confirmation of nomination to confirm the nomination was received.

Nominations received after the deadline will not be considered.

JUDGING

An independent panel of judges will review each entry and select the winner in each category.

QUESTIONS

housingiowaconf@iowafinance.com.

HOUSINGIOWA AWARDS

The HousingIowa Awards recognize outstanding programs or projects based on their contributions to advancing affordable housing in Iowa in four categories. Eligible projects may represent new construction, rehabilitation or a new housing program/initiative.

ELIGIBLE NOMINATIONS

Eligible projects must be placed in service between July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2025. Eligible programs must have been instituted between the same dates. Past award winners are ineligible to enter in the same category. Please submit only one entry per category and the same entry cannot be submitted in more than one category.

STORYTELLING OF THE PROJECT'S IMPACT

Winning initiatives will be required to have a beneficiary share their story about how the project has impacted their life on the morning of Wednesday, September 9, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Please provide the name(s) of the individual(s) who are available and willing to share their story, along with a brief summary of their story.

Storytelling about the real-life benefits of affordable housing initiatives is a key priority for IFA. To ensure the impact is effectively communicated, this is a requirement of the HousingIowa Awards.

IFA will collaborate with awarded initiatives and participating individuals to share the stories behind the impact.

NAME

SUMMARY

continued...

HOUSING IOWA AWARDS — CONTINUED

Please mark the category in which you are making a nomination.

- Multifamily Housing Development
- Single-Family Housing Development
- Special Needs Housing Development (Homelessness, housing for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, etc.)
- Innovation (Best of affordable housing design, collaborations, resources leveraged or other unique solutions that help meet an Iowa affordable housing need.)

PART I — CONTACT INFORMATION

Nominator

NAME	ORGANIZATION		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER		

Nominee

NAME	ORGANIZATION		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER		

PART II — NARRATIVE

Please provide a typed narrative that addresses the following criteria. The narrative may be single spaced, but may not exceed two pages in length.

- Are innovative and replicable
- Responds to an important state housing need
- Demonstrates measurable benefits to targeted population
- Demonstrates effective use of resources
- Achieves measurable results

PART III — SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Nominators may provide a maximum of 6 pieces of supporting material. This may include photos, newspaper articles, brochures, promotional materials, etc. Please send one complete application (including any supporting materials) as a pdf file for each of the completed entry(s) by the deadline of Friday, June 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to housingiowaconf@iowafinance.com. Applicants must receive confirmation of nomination to confirm the nomination was received.

KAY ANDERSON FRIEND OF IOWA AWARD

The Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond to improve the lives of those around them and in their community.

Community development advocate Kay Anderson was a resident of LeMars and esteemed member of the IFA Board of Directors and is remembered for her kindness and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Iowans. The Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award, a prestigious honor presented at the HousingIowa Conference, annually recognizes a housing leader who exemplifies her outstanding qualities and service in leadership. An independent panel of judges will determine the award winner based on the criteria shown below.

PART I

Nominator

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Nominee

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

PART II

Please provide a typed narrative that addresses the following criteria. The narrative may be single spaced, but may not exceed two pages in length.

The nominee:

- Is a role model who exemplifies qualities of leadership and passion;
- Is a volunteer for national, state or local events/organizations;
- Makes improving the lives of Iowans an integral part of his/her daily work.

MARK SERTTERH FRIEND OF HOUSING AWARD

The Mark Sertterh Friend of Housing Award recognizes direct service providers that have served with distinction and tirelessly go above and beyond to improve the lives of those around them and in their community.

The state of Iowa lost a great friend and dedicated advocate for those in need in 2023, with the untimely passing of Mark Sertterh, a member of the Shelter House team in Iowa City and long-time partner of IFA, Mark is remembered for his passion, standard of excellence and commitment to helping lowans. Nominees for the prestigious statewide award will include housing professionals that go above and beyond to assist lowans in need and encompass Mark's dedication to improving the lives of lowans. An independent panel of judges will determine the award winner based on the criteria shown below.

PART I

Nominator

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Nominee

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

PART II

Please provide a typed narrative that addresses the following criteria. The narrative may be single spaced, but may not exceed two pages in length.

The nominee:

- Is a role model who exemplifies qualities of hard work, advocacy and passion;
- Directly works with lowans in need and implements procedures and programs to full effect;
- Makes improving the lives of lowans an integral part of his/her daily work.