



The Innovations in American Government Awards



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HOUSING PROGRAMS UP FOR FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION INNOVATIONS AWARD *Three Finalists for Affordable Housing Award Eligible for \$100,000 Prize*

(CAMBRIDGE, MA) – Three of the most creative, forward-thinking, results-driven affordable housing programs have been named finalists today for the prestigious Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations Award in Affordable Housing—a program of the Fannie Mae Foundation, the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The programs are eligible to receive a \$100,000 to foster replication of their innovation.

“These programs represent true innovation and creative development of affordable homes by state and city government,” said Peter Beard, Senior Vice President of Policy and Information at the Fannie Mae Foundation. We are pleased to shine a bright light on these efforts, not only to encourage replication by other governments, but also to let the public know of the unique ways in which affordable housing challenges are being addressed by their government.”

The three finalist—which were chosen for their novelty and uniqueness, effectiveness in addressing important problems, significance, and the potential for replication by other government entities—are:

- **The City of Los Angeles’ Systematic Code Enforcement Program**, which proactively inspects more than 760,000 rental units in Los Angeles for habitability, and enforces state health and safety codes. The effort ensures that all residents live in safe housing and has resulted in the resolution of more than 1.5 million code violations. (on the web at www.lacity.org/lahd)
- **The City of Minneapolis’ Corridor Housing Strategy**, which enlists neighborhood organizations to help increase housing density and affordability along major urban corridors. The initiative uses transit-oriented development principles to foster housing growth tied to transportation and jobs. (on the web at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/corridor_housing_strategy_.asp)
- **The State of Vermont’s Housing and Conservation Board**, the nation’s only growth management model supporting the compact development of affordable housing while conserving the working landscape, nature areas and historic properties. (on the web at www.vhcb.org)

“Every American deserves a place to call home, and these three innovative programs are truly helping to make that dream a reality,” said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Award at the Harvard’s Ash Institute. “Great government innovation needs to not only be recognized, it must also be replicated,” added Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute. “These programs are true models to follow.”

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Each of the 3 finalists will deliver a public presentation before the National Selection Committee at Harvard University on May 11, 2005. The Committee is chaired by David R. Gergen of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard and includes former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste and former Congressman William Clinger. For more information about the presentations and how to view them on the Internet, please visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu.

After a full day of presentations, the committee will select the winner of the *Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations Award in Affordable Housing*, along with five winners of the Innovations in American Government Award. The winners will be announced on July 27, 2005 at the 2005 Excellence in Government Conference, in Washington, DC. The winning program will receive a \$100,000 grant to encourage replication of its innovation in other jurisdictions.

The Fannie Mae Foundation creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build health, vibrant communities across the United States. The Foundation is specially committed to improving the quality of life for the people in its hometown, Washington, D.C., and to enhancing the livability of the city's neighborhoods. The Foundation, a private nonprofit organization supported solely by Fannie Mae, has regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Pasadena and Philadelphia.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its awards program, research, publications, curriculum support, and global network, the Institute champions critical milestones in creative and effective governance and democratic practice.

The Council for Excellence in Government is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve government performance by strengthening results-oriented management and creative leadership in the public sector, and to build understanding by focusing public discussion on government's role and responsibilities.

For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year's finalists, please visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.

Style Usage: The Fannie Mae Foundation is a separate legal entity from Fannie Mae (a NYSE-listed company). In order to facilitate clarity and avoid confusion, news organizations are asked to refer to the Foundation exclusively as "the Fannie Mae Foundation" or the Foundation," but not as "Fannie Mae."

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