

May 23, 2018

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Boulder Housing Partners Wins Awards for School, Resiliency Programs

Boulder, CO--<u>Boulder Housing Partners</u> (BHP) took home two awards from last week's Colorado and Mountain Plains Chapter of the National Association of Redevelopment and Housing Officials <u>conference</u> in Vail.

"We strive to be good stewards of public funding and innovative in our programming, and these two projects reflect that," said Jeremy Durham, Executive Director of BHP.

The Community Resiliency Hub project won a Community Development Award. Following the 2013 floods in Boulder, BHP began investigating ways to become a more resilient organization and contribute to community resiliency initiatives. They partnered with the City of Boulder, Independent Power Systems and GRID Alternatives to install a state-of-the-art energy delivery infrastructure system at BHP's administrative offices as part of a U.S. Department of Energy grant. The project involves a natural gas generator, a photovoltaic solar array and a battery storage system to allow BHP to be self-sufficient during an emergency when the grid is no longer supplying the energy needed to power the facility's critical loads. This enables BHP to provide uninterrupted service to its 3,500 residents during an emergency or crisis. Their offices can also serve as a community emergency gathering place or a city outpost for emergency response services during power outages.

The <u>Bringing School Home Early Childhood Program</u> won a Resident Services Award. The program is designed to disrupt the cycle of poverty by ensuring that children from low-income families can achieve the same high academic performance as their peers from high-and middle-income, educated families. In 2013, only 38 percent of low income students in Boulder County pursued higher education compared to 69 percent of their more affluent peers. Bringing School Home supports children from cradle through career.

Early intervention during a child's critical first five years of brain development is ideal, and BHP identifies very young at-risk children by partnering with the <u>Emergency Family Assistance Association</u> (EFAA).

Once eligible families have moved into a BHP property, EFAA provides three months of case management and BHP continues with in-home visitations, parent groups, links to evidence-based programs and a community culture that values education and the key role parents play as their children's first teachers. School-age children are enrolled with the <u>"I Have a Dream" Foundation of Boulder County</u> to support them with classes and services through high school graduation and post-secondary school.

About Boulder Housing Partners

Boulder Housing Partners strives to make living in Boulder welcoming and affordable for people from a diverse range of backgrounds, regardless of income.

The housing authority for the City of Boulder for over 50 years, BHP builds, owns, and manages quality affordable homes for low and moderate-income Boulder residents, and helps those residents pursue successful and dignified lives. BHP is one of a select group of public housing authorities in the United States participating in the prestigious <u>Moving to Work</u> program, which encourages local innovation by providing flexibility in the use of federal funds. Its communities have won national and international awards for sustainability and affordable housing development. For additional information, please visit www.boulderhousing.org

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