

NAHMANews™

PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY MANAGERS AND OWNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Allen, (703) 683-8630

New Recognition Program for Outstanding Affordable Multifamily Properties

National Communities of Quality™ Certification Raises the Bar for Housing Industry

February 4, 2005, Alexandria, Va. — The National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) is pleased to announce a new certification program that recognizes the outstanding achievements of property managers and owners who provide high-quality, affordable multifamily rental housing.

Through the Communities of Quality™ (COQ) National Recognition program, multifamily properties can be certified as having achieved a high standard of excellence in the way they are managed, the services they provide residents, the experience and training of personnel, and other criteria.

NAHMA created the COQ National Recognition program as a way to acknowledge a company that provides the highest-quality affordable housing to lower-income residents while adding value to its larger community. “We want to make people aware that affordable housing is **not** substandard housing,” said NAHMA’s president, Jim McGrath, NAHP-e, HCCP. “In fact, the exact opposite is true. Housing for low- and moderate-income families is often a great asset to communities, especially when it offers services – such as computer learning centers or senior centers – that provide valuable support and enrichment to the lives of residents.”

Any property manager or owner of affordable multifamily rental housing in the U.S. can apply for COQ National Recognition at any time during the year. Applicants’ properties receive scores for Physical Inspections; Employee Credentials; Financial Management; Programs and Services; Endorsements; and Photographs and Reports. Applicants must score a minimum of 225 points in these categories to receive COQ certification.

Properties that score more than 325 points are automatically eligible to compete in NAHMA’s prestigious, 12-year-old, Communities of Quality™ Awards competition. All entrants to the COQ Awards competition must achieve National Recognition status.

Beginning in 2005, COQ Awards will be offered for the following five categories:

- Exemplary Family Development
- Exemplary Development for the Elderly
- Exemplary Development for Residents with Special Needs

- Exemplary Development for Single Room Occupancy Housing
- Outstanding Turnaround of a Troubled Property.

COQ Awards are presented in March of each year, at NAHMA's annual winter meeting.

NAHMA is the leading voice for affordable housing, advocating on behalf of multifamily property managers and owners whose mission is to provide quality affordable housing. NAHMA holds a unique position in the industry as the advocate for professional multifamily management standards. It supports legislative and regulatory policy that promotes the development and preservation of decent and safe affordable housing, is a vital resource for technical education and information, fosters strategic relations between government and industry and recognizes those who exemplify the best in affordable housing. Founded in 1990, NAHMA's membership today includes the industry's most distinguished multifamily management companies and owners.

For more information about NAHMA and the COQ Awards program, see www.nahma.org.

###