

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT & HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights & Key Accomplishments

The year was dominated COVID and how our members responded to its impact. Minnesota NAHRO worked to support our members during this unprecedented period. Our efforts included the following COVID related member benefits:

- **COVID Member Updates:** Minnesota NAHRO regularly communicated with its members to share tools and resources to help our members as they respond to the impact of COVID19. Our first COVID specific email was sent March 16 and to date, we have provided over 50 COVID specific updates to our members. The emails have been a critical tool for Minnesota NAHRO to share resources via the webpage and conference calls. Both have been a feature of our COVID resource for our members.
- **Resource Webpage:** Launched quite early in the pandemic, Minnesota NAHRO's COVID19 Response website featured sample policies, policy updates and links to various resources. The webpage has been available to the public and has been featured by many of our partners including Minnesota Housing, NAHRO, League of MN Cities, and others. Quite early on, Minnesota NAHRO was one of the few affordable housing organizations in the state that provided timely updates and resources geared towards multifamily affordable housing.
- **Conference Calls:** Minnesota NAHRO hosted a series of conference calls listed below that featured key issues facing our members as we addressed the impact of the coronavirus in our communities. The calls were provided at no or low cost to our members and provided an opportunity to feature the important work of our members and how they have served their communities during this housing and economic crisis.
 - Agency Operations, Program Impact, Resident Considerations (3/20/2020)
 - Continuity of Operations, Personnel Issues, State & Federal Update (3/27/2020)
 - National NAHRO policy experts (4/3/2020)
 - Implementing the HUD Waivers (4/17/2020)
 - CARES Act Funding & Expenditures (5/8/2020)
 - Sample Programs using CARES Act funding (7/2/2020)
 - Back to Basics with COVID (12/4/2020)
 - Addressing COVID Fatigue (2/26/2021)
 - COVID at the Capitol (3/26/2021)
 - RentHelpMN & HRAs (4/30/2021)
 - HUD Section 3 Update (6/16/2021)
 - Understanding the Eviction Moratorium (7/16/2021)

Website Update & New Membership Platform

In 2020, Minnesota NAHRO launched its updated website and membership platform. We combined our existing public-facing mnnahro.com with our member focused site at mnnahro.org into one convenient, much more user-friendly website. The new website allows us to use our regularly created content on the website so it is refreshed and up to date. We continue to include tools and resources for members on the restricted pages.

The new membership platform also addressed several membership accounts issues. Specifically, members are now able to hold both an Agency and Individual membership on a single email address. Plus, Agency Members are able to share access with multiple email addresses in their organization, eliminating a major inconvenience that came with our old system.

Professional Development

We transitioned and delivered virtual training beginning in May 2020 and through June 2021 for a total of three conferences and one leadership retreat. We returned to in person events in July 2021 at the Leadership Retreat held at Madden's Conference Center.

Housing Committee

"What Homes Means to Me" poster contest is an annual opportunity to showcase why affordable housing is so important to the children who live there. In 2020, we had 2 entries included in the national 2021 calendar. It was great to see the creativity of those that entered at all the age levels.

Scholarship

This year the Board of Directors voted to change the name of the MN NAHRO Educational Scholarship to the Carol Schultz Educational Scholarship in honor of all of her years of service to housing and to MN NAHRO, including her work for sponsorships and scholarship events. In 2021, Minnesota NAHRO awarded just one scholarship of \$1,000 and we hope to return to increased events to support more scholars in 2022.

Membership

For 2021, membership rates were increased and included a one time COVID fee due to the impact of the pandemic upon in person events. The COVID fee was attached to the 2021 membership dues. This support by our members helped Minnesota NAHRO survive.

Legislative & Advocacy

Minnesota NAHRO also advocated for state and federal resources to help housing authorities respond to COVID. Because of our coordinated advocacy and policy collaborations, additional COVID related resources increased including:

- Increased federal funds and policy waivers for HUD programs
- Secured \$100 in rental assistance funds (CHAP)
- Secured \$116 in bonds for housing including Housing Infrastructure Bonds and GO Bonds for Public Housing Rehab

Leadership Opportunities & Recognition

Our members are actively involved at both Regional and National levels of NAHRO. Representation includes NCRC President, Legislative Chair plus representation on national Strategic Planning, Budget & Operations and the Small Agency Task Force.

Thank you for being a member of Minnesota NAHRO!