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## **Ariz. Department of Housing Announces Housing Hero Awards Recipients at Annual Arizona Housing Forum in Tucson**

TUCSON (August 19, 2021) -- The Arizona Department of Housing will be hosting its first-ever [Combating Homelessness Track](#) – free of charge to the public – during its annual Arizona Housing Forum as the state continues to see an affordable housing shortage.

During the forum, the 2021 Housing Hero Awards, [named in honor of the late Brian Mickelson](#), will also be presented, recognizing outstanding achievements in the following six categories:

### **Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award: Elisa de la Vara**

Elisa de la Vara is being honored for a lifetime of exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to community and housing during her remarkable professional career that has spanned five decades including serving as president of the Hispanic Association of Real Estate Professionals and most recently as the Chief Community Officer for the Arizona Community Foundation where she oversaw the ACF Affordable Housing Fund.

### **Exemplary Multi-family Project: Storacle Point Apartments**

Storacle Point Apartments, is being recognized for bringing together resources to redevelop infill parcels in the City of Tucson with the unique combination of accessible single family and multi-family supportive housing, for very low income households as a part of a community revitalization project representing 66 newly constructed affordable housing units. Storacle Point Apartments serves families and low-income persons in need of supportive services; Households with Children; and includes City of Tucson for Project Based Vouchers to serve Chronically Homeless Persons with a preference for Veterans.

### **Innovative Supportive Housing Program or Service: Housing as Healthcare/Flagstaff Shelter Services**

Flagstaff Shelter Services is being recognized for spearheading the design and implementation of the innovative Housing as Healthcare Program. Implemented in late 2019, the program effectively matches program participants with a multi-discipline Housing focused Care Team that provides individualized, comprehensive supportive services. As a result, 342 individuals reported improved health outcomes and 82 men, women and children transitioned from emergency shelter to long-term housing.

### **Outstanding Affordable Housing Initiative: A Matter of How/Community Development Troupe**

“A Matter of How” by the Community Development Troupe has been addressing two primary goals: assist low-income families build assets via homeownership and revitalize older Wellton



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neighborhoods. With the support of its Council, the Town of Wellton allocated its regional CDBG funds to the purchase and improvement of ten single family lots throughout the town, to showcase a town-wide neighborhood revitalization approach.

### **Outstanding State Administered CDBG Funded Project: Show Low Senior Center/City of Show Low**

The Show Low Senior Center Kitchen Addition project is being recognized for utilizing CDBG funding to improve meal service to the senior population of Show Low and for expanding their services outside the city limits to accommodate new clients resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic (a 40% increase from the same period in 2019). The work involved a 400 sq ft stockroom addition to the Show Low Senior Center kitchen and space for a commercial refrigerator and freezer.

### **Tribal Initiatives: Pascua Yaqui Homes VII/Pascua Yaqui Tribe**

Pascua Yaqui Homes VII is the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's ("the Tribe") seventh Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project and sets records as the largest tribal LIHTC award in history. The \$20 million development is the first phase of a larger master-planned community on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation called Yaqui Square. The 50 new construction units include two-, three-, and four-bedroom single family culturally significant homes that conserve natural resources which will be converted to homeownership after 15 years. Eventual homeownership for this project was a unique opportunity to pursue with the idea that members will reside on the reservation and continue to give back to the community for years to come.

The Arizona Housing Forum provides a platform for affordable housing and community development professionals to learn, network and connect in sharing ideas that create and improve housing and community development choices in Arizona.

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### **About the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH)**

Established in 2002, we administer programs to create, preserve, and invest in affordable housing statewide. ADOH does not own or build housing; we manage programs that convey funding to private and government entities that apply and meet criteria developed by state/federal law. ADOH receives no state funding appropriation and most programs are federally-funded.