

– NEWS RELEASE –



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Housing Authority of DeKalb County Receives Award of Merit from NAHRO**

**DEKALB COUNTY, Ga.** – The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recently honored the **Housing Authority of DeKalb County (HADDC)** with the 2018 Award of Merit in Program Innovation for our **Family Self-Sufficiency Program Pathways to Self-Sufficiency Resident Services’ Program Model**.

HADDC’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program was created to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of Housing Choice Vouchers with public and private resources to assist eligible families achieve economic independence. Participation is entirely voluntary for unemployed or underemployed participants of HADDC’s Housing Choice Voucher Program.

HADDC’s nonprofit affiliate, **Resident Services Corporation (RSC)** works with FSS participants in building a foundation for personal success by providing targeted programming and services to assist them in overcoming barriers to economic stability and achieving long-term self-sufficiency. Resident Services Special Programs help participants increase earning power, achieve economic independence, improve academic performance, and enhance quality of life.

Case Managers collaborate to identify each family’s specific needs in an all-encompassing way. An Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) is created and goals may include education, specialized training, job readiness and job placement activities and career advancement objectives.

“These agencies have put a lot of thought, creativity and hard work into helping residents improve their lives and into revitalizing their local communities,” said NAHRO President Carl S. Richie, Jr. “I am proud to celebrate their achievements.”

The NAHRO Awards of Merit program was created 19 years ago to recognize agencies who found innovative ways of making a difference in their communities and in the lives of the people they serve by creating affordable housing, revitalizing their neighborhoods, and developing initiatives such as job readiness programs, public-private partnerships, disaster prevention projects, and more.

“Our industry is continuously innovating to address changing local needs and to create new opportunities in their communities,” said NAHRO CEO Adrienne Todman, “Congratulations to this year’s top innovators!”

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**About NAHRO**

NAHRO, established in 1933, is a membership organization of nearly 20,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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