



April 15, 2008

Dear COSCARDA Member:

COSCARDA invites you to submit applications for its annual awards competition. The awards will be presented during COSCARDA's 2008 Annual Training Conference, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The three awards are bestowed annually to a COSCARDA member and to state programs, based on nominations from our membership and are designed to provide national recognition to our members.

**JAMES REEVES MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

Named in honor of long time COSCARDA member, James Reeves, this award recognizes an individual COSCARDA member who has made the most significant and sustained contribution to the work and mission of COSCARDA during the last five years.

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR INNOVATION**

This award recognizes innovative activities, policies or programs that have been implemented at the state level, which have demonstrated success in solving community needs. **The winner of this award will make a presentation during the Awards Luncheon at Annual Training Conference.**

**COSCARDA STERLING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

This award recognizes state programs that have demonstrated, during a sustained period, positive results in improving the lives of lower income persons in the following program areas:

- Community Development/Economic Development
- Housing Assistance
- Homelessness Assistance/Prevention

The Awards Committee will bestow a Sterling Achievement Award in each of the program areas identified above. **The winners of this award will also make a presentation during the Awards Luncheon at Annual Training Conference.**

On behalf of the Member Services Committee and the Awards Review Committee, I encourage you to take a few minutes and reflect on a deserving COSCARDA colleague, activity or project and submit a nomination for one of these prestigious awards. Let us celebrate our success and honor our colleagues who have made a significant contribution to COSCARDA or have undertaken a project that highlights the state's leadership role in community development and housing.

The COSCDA Awards Review Committee will select award winners based on their assessment of the project characteristics:

- Role in overall community revitalization
- Impact on the community by adding substantially to the affordable housing stock or improving the economic conditions in a community
- Employs cost-effective or innovative design and/or construction, including energy efficiency and sustainable development
- Received broad community support, including state and local government financial assistance.
- Addresses a unique challenge
- Demonstrates creative problem-solving
- Overall cost-effectiveness of program/project
- Product or service transferable or adaptable to other states through nationally accessible funding resources
- Demonstrate how it has made a measurable positive change in the lives of LMI persons

Award submissions will be evaluated against the criteria and not against each other.

Winners will be notified no later than **August 1, 2008** in order to make the necessary arrangements to attend the Award Luncheon during the COSCDA 2008 Annual Conference in September.

COSCDA award applications may be completed online at <http://www.coscda.org/annualawards.asp>. The online applications provide an opportunity to submit supporting documentation. The deadline for submission of the award applications is **June 20, 2008**. If you have any questions, please contact Dianne Taylor at 202.293.5820.

Sincerely,

Dianne Taylor  
Executive Director