



NEWS RELEASE

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The Cook County Land Bank Authority earns national achievement award for Homebuyer Direct Program

WASHINGTON – The Cook County Land Bank Authority’s Homebuyer Direct Program has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized the Homebuyer Direct Program for achievements in community and economic development in Cook County. Homebuyer Direct, a program of the Cook County Land Bank Authority, enables homebuyers to purchase vacant, abandoned homes from the Land Bank at below-market rates, rehab them and earn immediate equity in them. The program aims to boost home ownership in areas experiencing lingering effects from the 2008 mortgage crisis. Homebuyers in the program are required to live in their homes after rehabbing them. Since its inception in 2017, the Homebuyer Direct program has sold more than 170 homes.

NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson said, “We are seeing firsthand now more than ever that counties work tirelessly to support our residents. This year’s Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America.”

Cook County Land Bank Authority Executive Director Rob Rose said the award recognizes the county’s work to help revitalize communities.

“The Homebuyer Direct program is the kind of program we need to help families build wealth while supporting neighborhoods at the same time,” Rose said. “We’re proud to earn this important recognition.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org.

