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The 2022 All-America City Awards are being Co-Convened by the National Civic League & Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

DENVER – The National Civic League and co-convenor, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR), are now accepting applications for the 2022 All-America City Award, the nation's most prestigious community recognition.

This year's application is specifically designed to showcase community-driven efforts to promote early school success and equitable learning recovery from the consequences of the pandemic, while featuring housing as a critical platform in supporting the recovery process. The National Civic League and CGLR look forward to learning from communities and highlighting the great work that's taking place across the country.

The 2022 AAC Awards will recognize communities that have committed to improving the prospects for early school success and equitable learning recovery for the hundreds of thousands of children whose families are served by the nation's public housing agencies and affordable housing organizations.

During the past 18 months, the closure of schools, early childhood programs and childcare centers in response to COVID-19 was a significant setback for all children's early school success. The adverse impact has been disproportionately devastating, however, for children of economically challenged, fragile and marginalized families. Left unattended, learning loss of this scale and magnitude could further compromise the prospects for a generation of children whose future already is at risk.

Safe, stable housing that is affordable to marginalized and economically disadvantaged individuals and families provides more than a place to live. Built and/or managed by public housing agencies (PHAs) and affordable housing organizations, these homes offer a both-and: both high-quality homes that are affordable to families of limited financial means and the services, supports and cross-sector connections that can assist children, adults and families to recover and rebuild post-pandemic.

Public housing and affordable housing programs are high-potential platforms for regaining momentum for early school success and for accelerating equitable learning recovery. PHAs and affordable housing organizations can serve as focal points that bring together public, corporate and community-level stakeholders to support children, adults and families using a system of 24/7/365 wraparound services and supports and a two-generation approach. As such, housing organizations are mission-critical partners as communities across the country work towards a full and equitable recovery for all of their members, especially those most vulnerable, and developments built and/or managed by PHAs and affordable housing organizations serve as a physical asset that can be leveraged to support individual, family and community well-being.

The National Civic League and CGLR look forward to receiving community applications and celebrating efforts to use housing as a platform for early school success and equitable learning recovery.

“The All-America City Awards offer an opportunity for community stakeholders to come together to share and celebrate the programs and projects that make their homes great places to live. Applicants consistently note that the process leaves them feeling a sense of pride in their community and motivation to tackle the tough issues that persist,” Rebecca Trout, All-America City Award Director, said.

Started in 1949, the All-America City Award program has recognized 500 communities that excel in collaborating to address pressing problems in the community. Described by George H. Gallup as the “Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship,” the award celebrates exemplary grassroots community problem-solving and honors communities that have united to achieve stunning results.

In Pennsylvania, 15 communities have won the All-America City Award. You can view the [full list of winners on the National Civic League's website](#).

Communities interested in applying for the All-America City Award should submit a letter of intent to apply by **January 10th**, which saves applicants \$100 on the application fee. Please note: a letter of intent is not required to apply. The application is due **March 1, 2022** and can be downloaded [here](#).

The All-America City Award (AAC) is given each year by the National Civic League in recognition of communities' outstanding civic accomplishments. The award spurs communities to use innovative approaches to create stronger connections between residents and nonprofit and government leaders. The AAC Award celebrates those efforts and becomes a platform for sharing innovation, inspiration, and insight with other communities throughout the country.

About: Founded in 1894, the National Civic League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance civic engagement to achieve thriving, equitable communities. Based in Denver, the League offers a variety of services to local governments, including the National Civic Review, Model City Charter and Civic Index. The National Civic League also operates the program for the All-America City Awards, which over 500 communities have won since 1949, and provides one-on-one technical assistance to communities.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading seeks to disrupt generational poverty and ensure more hopeful futures for children of economically challenged, fragile and otherwise marginalized communities. We support community-driven initiatives to improve the likelihood that these children will grasp the first rung of the success sequence ladder – graduation from high school. Since its launch in 2012, the GLR Communities Network has grown to include more than 350 communities, representing 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and two Canadian provinces — sponsored by 5,200+ local organizations, institutions and agencies and supported by 500+ state and local funders, including 200+ United Ways.

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