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Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung in St. Paul Honored with Affordable Housing Award From National Coalition

26th Annual Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award recognizes best in affordable housing

Washington, D.C. – The Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition (AHTCC) today announced that Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung in St. Paul, Minn., is a 2020 recipient of the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award in the Special Needs category, recognizing affordable housing developments and organizations that have demonstrated especially impactful use of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit).

Announced each year from the nation’s capital, the awards honor Housing Credit developments that are strengthening communities, improving residents’ opportunity and boosting economies in urban, suburban and rural areas across the country. The awards come at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact have intensified the need for affordable housing, compounding the challenge facing at-risk families and individuals already struggling to pay rent.

“The Housing Credit continues to spur development of affordable homes that go above and beyond for the families they serve,” said AHTCC Executive Director Emily Cadik. “The Edson Award winners this year demonstrate how innovative and high-quality affordable housing can transform communities and help meet the need for education, child care, health care and other services vital to a community’s support system for at-risk families and individuals.”

In Minnesota, 2 percent of the population is American Indian, yet represent 22 percent of all homeless youth. Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung (“Good New Home” in Ojibwe), developed by Project for Pride in Living and designed by partner Ain Dah Yung Center, is a first-of-its kind project that provides 42 new homes and supportive services to formerly homeless American Indian youth between the ages of 18 – 24. The property includes a community kitchen, healthcare/therapy spaces, a clothing closet and food shelf that provide clothing and food for residents when their monthly income isn't enough to meet their needs. The property also includes a cultural community center to accommodate Native ceremonies; a Native cultural activities center, where youth have space to make regalia, beadwork, and ceremonial drums; a sweat lodge for ceremonial sweats; and a medicine garden to grow traditional medicines used in ceremonies. The Housing Credit was used to finance the property, with syndication provided by National Equity Fund, Inc.

Since 1986, the Housing Credit has financed more than three million homes for low-income households, including veterans, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, essential workers, and families with children. Through public-private partnerships, the Housing Credit offers a proven track record of financing safe, decent affordable homes in communities where they are needed most.

“The Edson awardees highlight the creative and innovative solutions that exist to combat the nation’s lack of affordable housing,” said AHTCC President and WNC, Inc. Executive Vice President Michael Gaber. “As the impact of COVID-19 continues to create hardships for a growing number of families and working people across the country, now more than ever we need effective tools like the Housing Credit to provide stable, affordable homes.”

For more information about the 2020 Edson Awards, please visit taxcreditcoalition.org/edson-awards/.

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About the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition

Founded in 1988, AHTCC is a trade organization of housing professionals who advocate for affordable rental housing financed using the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit). AHTCC's for-profit and non-profit members—including syndicators, investors, lenders, developers, legal and accounting professionals and state allocating agencies—seek to preserve, expand and improve the Housing Credit and complementary programs through legislative outreach and education.