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MassHousing Receives Outstanding Member Award from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

*Agency recognized for innovative efforts to help provide housing and social services to
Massachusetts veterans.*

BOSTON – June 19 19, 2014 – MassHousing has been awarded an Outstanding Member Award by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for the Agency's innovative efforts to help provide housing and social services to Massachusetts veterans.

In making the award, the Washington, D.C.-based organization recognized MassHousing for its "outstanding leadership and your exemplary commitment to ending veteran homelessness in the United States."

MassHousing was honored for its programs that assist in helping to prevent veteran homelessness including the Center for Community Recovery Innovations, Inc. (CCRI); the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP); and the Home for the Brave mortgage loan program for veterans.

"Our veterans give selflessly of themselves yet they experience high levels of homelessness, substance abuse and mental health issues," said MassHousing Executive Director Thomas R. Gleason. "To be recognized for our efforts by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is humbling and will continue to inspire us to do our part to help end homelessness."

CCRI is a nonprofit subsidiary corporation of MassHousing created to deal with issues of addiction to alcohol and drugs in housing communities. CCRI solicits and selects eligible projects for funding. Grants are typically used as one-time gap funding for capital projects that increase or improve the stock of affordable sober housing in Massachusetts.

CCRI has awarded more than \$7.6 million in grants to more than 70 nonprofit agencies for 1,663 units of substance-free housing in 40 cities and towns across Massachusetts. These awards have provided housing and services for more than 6,500 men, women, families, veterans, homeless persons, ex-offenders reentering the community, and other underserved populations.

MassHousing's TPP is a homeless prevention program that works with individuals and families with disabilities facing eviction as a result of behavior related to a disability such as mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and aging-related impairments. TPP functions as a neutral party to the landlord and the tenant and in consultation with the Massachusetts Housing Court Department. Recognized recently by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, TPP has preserved hundreds of tenancies of those most at risk. Collaboration with local agencies serving veterans is the focus of a new statewide homeless prevention initiative.

The Home for the Brave program was created by MassHousing and offers affordable, low down-payment mortgage financing for veterans of the U.S. Armed Services.

In addition, The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans noted that Tom Lyons, the manager of MassHousing's Community Services Department, represents MassHousing and Governor Deval Patrick on multiple committees including the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee and the U.S. Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee for Homeless Veterans.

About MassHousing

MassHousing (The Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency) is an independent, quasi-public agency created in 1966 and charged with providing financing for affordable housing in Massachusetts. The Agency raises capital by selling bonds and lends the proceeds to low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners, and to developers who build or preserve affordable and/or mixed-income rental housing. MassHousing does not use taxpayer dollars to sustain its operations, although it administers some publicly funded programs on behalf of the Commonwealth. Since its inception, MassHousing has provided more than \$16 billion for affordable housing. For more information, visit the MassHousing website at www.masshousing.com, follow us on Twitter [@MassHousing](https://twitter.com/MassHousing), subscribe to [our blog](#) and [Like us](#) on Facebook.

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