

Industry Groups Back New Certification Program

NAHMA's new certification program, Specialist in Housing Credit Management™ (SHCM™), is benefiting from a strategic alliance with two other industry organizations, the National Apartment Association, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), headquartered in Washington, D.C.

and professional credentials. For our Section 202 providers, tax credits are the wave of the future. They are the source of capital that is needed to help them meet the needs of an aging population.”

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need, when they need them, in a place they can call home,” he continued.

and nursing homes. From NAHMA's point of view, the LIHTC program is the primary production tool for creating new affordable housing properties across every state in the country, and it is also the most important tool for rehabilitating and preserving the nation's existing stock of aging affordable housing.

“To maximize their careers, managers in the affordable housing industry

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The SHCM certification program is designed by managers for managers of properties developed and operated under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

MORE TRAINING SEEN AS ESSENTIAL

Why these organizations chose to forge this alliance is reflected in comments by their leaders.

Said Ron Shelton, President, National Apartment Association Education Institute (NAAEI), “In conjunction with NAAEIs' six current designations, the SHCM examination will expand educational offerings to the professionally managed apartment industry. Affordable housing needs nationwide are at a peak right now. That the industry is providing specific training will only enhance and expand the offerings of affordable products.”

AAHSA CEO Larry Minnix said the alliance with NAHMA “will help us offer our members that are involved with low income housing more education, training

need, when they need them, in a place they can call home,” he continued.

The National Apartment Association (NAA) is a federation of 171 state and local affiliated associations representing approximately 32,000 members responsible for more than 5.2 million apartment homes nationwide. It is the largest broad-based organization dedicated solely to rental housing. NAA members include apartment owners, management executives, developers, builders, investors, property managers, leasing consultants, maintenance personnel, suppliers and related business professionals throughout the United States and Canada.

AAHSA serves two million people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. AAHSA members offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement com-

must be able to demonstrate their experience and expertise in mastering the complex requirements of the LIHTC program to their peers, employers, residents, regulators and the general public. Earning your SHCM enables you to do just that,” said NAHMA President Jim McGrath, NAHP-e, SHCM.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to become SHCM certified, applicants must demonstrate a minimum of two years of housing credit management employment experience, successfully complete a minimum of 12 hours of housing credit specific coursework or training by an approved provider (listed on NAHMA's website), sit for the SHCM exam, and submit their SHCM application.

As an SHCM, certificants will

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receive a congratulatory welcome kit, including a certificate, pin, and annual identification card. They will also be listed in NAHMA's Online Directory of Credentialed Professionals, receive a free subscription to *NAHMA News* (a \$95 value) and *NAHP Update*, and earn a discount on their NAHMA NAHP or NAHP-e annual renewal dues. SHCM certificants will also enjoy free access to NAHMA's LIHTC Web Site and will join an elite corps of managers who can demonstrate they are in the forefront of their profession.

Those candidates with less than the required two years of employment experience may still take the SHCM exam, provide a certificate demonstrating 12 hours of housing credit training, and complete a SHCM application; however these candidates will need to participate in a "candidacy period" equal to the amount of time remaining to meet the two-year experience requirement. Once the candidacy period is satisfied, the candidate may then begin to use the SHCM certification.

For a limited period, housing credit professionals who have earned a certification based on criteria similar to the SHCM and awarded by a nationally recognized organization or entity may apply to be "grandfathered" into the SHCM program. Under this special limited offer, previously certified professionals may earn their SHCM by submitting their Grandfather Application to NAHMA. With the Grandfather Application, the requirement to sit for the SHCM exam is waived.

More details and application materials for the SHCM are available at the NAHMA website at www.nahma.org/content/shcm.html. Or, to request an SHCM application and information by mail, please contact NAHMA SHCM Program Manager, 400 N. Columbus St., Suite 203, Alexandria, VA 22314; email: jessica.allen@nahma.org; phone 703-683-8630; fax 703-683-8634. **NN**