

NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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For Immediate Release

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NAHMA Announces New Strategic Alliance for its Specialist in Housing Credit Management™ Certification Program

Oct. 5, 2005, Alexandria, Va. – The National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) today announced that two national housing industry organizations have joined it in a strategic alliance to promote education and training opportunities that support its new Specialist in Housing Credit Management™ (SHCM™) certification program for affordable housing management professionals. The SHCM certification is designed *by managers for managers* of properties developed and operated under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

Joining NAHMA in the strategic alliance are the National Apartment Association, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, headquartered in Washington, DC.

“The National Apartment Association is pleased to bring the SHCM exam to our membership,” said Ron Shelton, President, National Apartment Association Education Institute. “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’s strategic alliance with NAHMA will help us offer our members that are involved with low income housing more education, training and professional credentials,” AAHSA CEO Larry Minnix said. “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. Our participation in the SCHM program will help professional housing managers master the requirements of the tax credit program, develop expertise and most importantly, help more older adults receive the services they need, when they need them, in a place they can call home.”

“As experienced affordable housing management professionals know, 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," said NAHMA President Jim McGrath, NAHP-e, SHCM. "To maximize their careers, managers in the affordable housing industry 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," he stated.

As an SHCM, certificants will 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 (\$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.

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.

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.

As of Aug. 4, 2005, NAHMA is no longer affiliated with the Housing Credit Certified Professional certification program.

NAHMA is the leading voice for affordable housing management, advocating on behalf of multifamily property managers and owners whose mission is to provide quality

affordable housing. NAHMA's mission is to support legislative and regulatory policy that promotes the development and preservation of decent and safe affordable housing. NAHMA serves as a vital resource for technical education and information, fosters strategic relations between government and industry, and recognizes those who exemplify the best in affordable housing. NAHMA is the voice in Washington for some 20 regional, state and local affordable housing management associations (AHMAs) nationwide.

The National Apartment Association (NAA), based in Alexandria, Va., is the leading advocate for quality rental housing. 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.

The members of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (www.aahsa.org) serve 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 communities, and nursing homes. AAHSA's commitment is to create the future of aging services through quality people can trust.

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