

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Teams

FROM: Don Watt

DATE: November 10, 2008

SUBJECT: NCSHA Award

Congratulations and thank you for the work you have done and are doing in your community. Your efforts with addressing housing issues within your local communities was recognized by the National Council State Housing Agencies(NCSHA), a national organization representing state housing finance agencies like DCA.

NCSHA accepted nominations for innovative housing programs and projects nationally from State Housing Finance Agencies. In August, DCA submitted a nomination to recognize GICH under the Special Achievement Category. This category recognizes Housing Finance Agency (HFA) programs, projects, or actions that respond in an outstanding manner to an important state need, have significant impact on a population, geographic area, or economy, and cut across traditional program lines.

The nomination included information regarding the purpose of GICH and how the initiative was developed, partners involved, and the design of the program. The application described local concerns related to safe and affordable housing, historic housing stock, the growing diversity of populations, and the lack of capacity to address these needs identified by all GICH communities. Pictures of events from GICH retreats, community clean up days, repairs or the building of houses, and scenes from GICH graduations were included in the nomination.

Again, congratulations and thank you for your commitment to the program but more importantly to your community. It was an honor to be selected as the recipient of the Special Achievement Award over eighteen other nominations.