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**AKRON METROPOLITAN and SEATTLE AWARDED NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACCREDITATION by the AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACCREDITATION BOARD**

Philadelphia, PA, September 20, 2018 – The Affordable Housing Accreditation Board™ (AHAB) has awarded national affordable housing accreditation to both Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority in Ohio and Seattle Housing Authority in Washington – the first two organizations in the country to receive AHAB accreditation. The designation of “Accredited Affordable Housing Organization” reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting performance standards established by the affordable housing industry and to providing quality, well-managed housing.

Both organizations underwent a rigorous review of documentation that culminated in a three-day site visit and final report earlier this year. During the review and site visit, Affordable Housing Accreditation Board reviewers evaluated each organization on their conformance with 8 standards and 47 guidelines related to how effectively the board, leadership and staff work to meet their mission to enhance their communities by providing quality affordable housing.

The standards and guidelines contain four key elements that have not previously been measured by regulators and funders: 1) Quality of Life of Residents; 2) Customer Service; 3) Executive Leadership; and 4) Community Engagement and Improvement. The other four standards are governance, financial management, operational performance and organizational compliance.

Established in 2013, the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board began piloting accreditation in early 2018. Accreditation is awarded for a five-year period, encouraging accredited organizations to

continuously improve and excel in providing safe, well managed, high quality affordable housing in their communities. Accreditation can result in improved management of housing, shared best practices around the country, and higher quality of life for residents.

“Organizations that pursue accreditation from the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board are demonstrating the highest commitment to their communities by delivering quality affordable housing” said Diana McWilliams, President and CEO of the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board. “I commend both organizations for successfully achieving this milestone and for their dedication to providing quality affordable housing to their residents and their communities.”

Renee Rooker, Chair of the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board and Executive Director of Walla Walla Housing Authority in Washington state has been advocating for national accreditation for affordable housing providers for over two decades. “We are so excited to bring national accreditation to affordable housing. We feel the standards and guidelines are an effective tool for looking at an organization’s fiscal, managerial and operational health, as well as how effectively it’s meeting its mission. Our goal is to roll affordable housing accreditation out across the country and share best practices for organizational improvement and recognize the good work that is happening in every state.”

For more information about affordable housing accreditation, visit [www.housingaccreditation.org](http://www.housingaccreditation.org).

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### **About the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board™**

Founded in 2013, the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board™ seeks to continuously improve affordable housing for the public, by evaluating affordable housing organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe, well-managed, high quality affordable housing in their communities. The Affordable Housing Accreditation Board™ accredits affordable housing organizations across the country. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Affordable Housing Accreditation Board™ is the affordable housing industry standards-setting and accrediting body. Learn more about affordable housing accreditation at [www.housingaccreditation.org](http://www.housingaccreditation.org).

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