

Press Release



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MICHIGAN'S LEADERSHIP IN HOUSING ADVOCACY **2025 AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

LANSING, MI - The Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) recognized and celebrated the individuals and organizations whose work is shaping Michigan's housing future at their Leadership in Housing Advocacy Awards Luncheon this past week in Lansing. This ceremony brought together leaders from across the state to celebrate the collaboration, innovation, and advocacy strengthening Michigan's housing landscape.

"These awards are meant to honor those who roll up their sleeves and get to work on housing issues impacting our state," said Karen Schroeder, 2025 Awards Committee Chair. "Successfully addressing Michigan's housing challenges will increasingly depend on leaders who collaborate and bring people and organizations together. That is why we created this awards program and honored those who have taken action to better our great state."

The awards ceremony covered nine different categories with the winners showing off some of the best individuals and organizations shaping Michigan's housing future.

This year's **Community Impact Award** was presented to **Brilliant Detroit**, an organization that has transformed vacant or underused houses into neighborhood-based resource hubs that provide literacy support, family services, and community-based programming. Their work brings new life to Detroit neighborhoods by empowering families and strengthening community connections where people live.

The **YIMBY** (Yes In My Backyard) Award recognized **Farmington Mayor Joe LaRussa** for his leadership in advancing attainable housing and redevelopment projects within his community. Through initiatives such as Hillside Townes and Legion Square, Mayor LaRussa has expanded homeownership options and revitalized key areas of the city while modernizing infrastructure and broadband access.

The **Workforce Development Advocate Award** honored **David Mollitor Jr.** and **Consolidated Electrical Contractors (with offices in Lansing, Traverse City, Flint and Grand Rapids)**, whose commitment to skilled trades education and apprenticeship expansion has supported hundreds of Michigan students pursuing electrical and mechanical careers. Under Mollitor's leadership, the

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company has grown into a nearly 200-person employee-owned firm with training partnerships across the state.

Housing Now – Marquette County received the **Coalition of the Year Award** for its groundbreaking work uniting 27 organizations, local governments, and private-sector partners to address Upper Peninsula housing challenges. Through coordinated efforts in planning, education, regulatory reform, and project support, the coalition has become a model for collaborative housing solutions.

The **Emerging Advocate Award** was presented to **Antonio Adan**, Executive Director of the Marquette County Land Bank and the county's first Housing Specialist. His leadership has resulted in over 130 new housing units in the development pipeline, significant blight elimination progress, and a dramatic expansion of local developer engagement.

Councilman Robert Donovic of Livonia received the **Champion of Housing Award** for his work advancing efficient housing policy, smart growth principles, and redevelopment initiatives through his dual experience as both a builder and local elected official. His leadership has strengthened collaboration between the construction industry and municipal government.

The Lakeshore Home Builders Association, based in Holland, Michigan, was recognized as the 2025 **Outstanding Local HBA** for its achievements in advocacy, workforce development, and member engagement. Under CEO Brittany Ryzenga's leadership, the association has grown its influence, expanded student outreach programs, and earned national recognition for membership retention and service.

Maxwell Cameron received the **Housing Advocate of the Year Award** for his work modernizing development processes and expanding attainable housing in Grand Traverse County. His leadership on electronic permitting, land bank redevelopment, and grant acquisition has improved transparency and strengthened collaboration across the region.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Carole Jones of Bingham Farms, Michigan**, whose decades of leadership within HBAM, NAHB, and the Professional Women in Building Council have made her a true role model for those in the homebuilding industry. Her lifelong dedication to advocacy, mentorship, and professionalism continues to inspire builders, leaders, and women in the trades across the state.

Those wishing to nominate someone for next year's Leadership in Housing Advocacy Awards should contact HBAM at 517-322-0224.

The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 16 local homebuilder associations around the state and their 4,500 builder, subcontractor and supplier members. HBAM works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing attainability.

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