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Morristown apartment project wins affordable housing award

STAFF REPORTS

MORRISTOWN — An Abbett Avenue apartment house won a state award for excellence in affordable housing in a ceremony this week, state officials announced.

The state Department of Community Affairs and New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency honored eight organizations and two individuals with the Excellence in Housing Awards in recognition of outstanding work in housing development. The award ceremony took place earlier this week at the 2009 Governor's Conference on Housing and Community Development at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Three of the awards were for Outstanding Affordable Housing Development. The first was presented to Homeless Solutions, Inc. for Abbett Avenue Apartments in Morristown. Homeless Solutions took an unsightly, non-conforming mixed-use building and created a 12-unit development that enhances the neighborhood, a statement about the awards said.

The category was aimed at housing development that uses innovative concepts and design to meet the needs of the targeted population, the statement said.

"New Jersey is making progress in providing homes and apartments that people can afford, in large part, because of the efforts of these award recipients and others like them," DCA Acting Commissioner Charles A. Richman said in a statement.

The 12 Abbett Avenue apartments are evenly divided into one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units and available to very-low-income (30 percent or less of median household income), low-income (50 percent or less) and moderate-income (80 percent or less) families. Homeless Solutions provides supportive services to the tenants including budget and parenting counseling and transportation for job searches and health care.

The \$3 million project was completed last year. Funding came from Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, the Morris County HOME program, William E. Simon Foundation and the United Way of Morris County.

Every year, the Excellence in Housing Awards recognize individuals and organizations who meet state needs and current housing goals. This year's award recipients were honored for outstanding housing development in the areas of affordable housing, green/sustainable development and urban infill, among others.
