The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) partners with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to recognize developers, organizations, and agencies for their success in advancing the goals of historic preservation while providing affordable housing and/or expanded economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. In addition, nominated projects or activities will be judged for the success they have achieved in preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, and interpreting our architectural and cultural heritage. Eligible projects must meet the following criteria:

- Promote the use of historic buildings for affordable housing, community development, and/or expanded economic opportunities
- Include HUD funds or financing
- Meet preservation guidelines
- Contribute to local and/or tribal community revitalization efforts

During the Depression, local residents provided labor and materials to help construct the Ashe Hospital in Jefferson, NC. It was vacated in the 1970s and sat empty until the community recently reinvented the landmark building as housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. The project won the 2020 ACHP/HUD Secretary’s Award.
Nomination Requirements

Nominations must answer all the following questions by number:

1. What makes the nominated project exemplary? Provide a one-page summary of the project including the historical significance of the site, the challenges faced, the outcome of the project and its benefits.

2. How does the nominated project or activity provide for the continued or adaptive use of historic structures and districts for affordable housing and/or economic development opportunities?

3. How does the project benefit low- or moderate-income families and individuals?

4. When was the project completed? Projects completed within three years of nomination are eligible. Long-term projects or programs are eligible if substantial achievements have been made within the last three years.

5. Is the project or activity in an area that is part of a locally developed, overall community revitalization effort, or part of a community revitalization plan?

6. What are the impacts of the nominee's project on the community? Community impacts may include (but are not limited to) social and economic benefits, resiliency strategies, cultural integrity, youth engagement, and sustainability.

7. What are the quality and degree of difficulty of the nominee's project or efforts?

8. How is the nominee's project unusual or pioneering?

9. Can the project serve as an example for others?

10. What sources of funding were used to complete the project (e.g. HUD assistance, Opportunity Zone fund, other public funds, private funds, tax credits, etc.?)

11. What role did HUD assistance play in the nominated project or activity?

12. How did the project comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation?

13. What finding of effect resulted from the Section 106 review of the project? Nominated projects must have undergone Section 106 review.

Each nomination must include the following attachments:

- Complete contact information for nominator and key partners (list no more than six). Include name, title, organization/business, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

- A brief project budget that addresses the total cost of the project, the sources and amounts of funding for the project, and the specific HUD program(s) that provided assistance (e.g. CDBG, HOME, RAD, 221(d)(4), etc.).

- One to five supporting brochures or news clippings.

- One to three letters of recommendation.

- A list of past awards this project received.

- A copy of the Section 106 concurrence letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Part 2 Historic Tax Credit approval, or executed Section 106 Agreement Document.

- Five to 10 high-quality jpeg digital images totaling no more than 25 MB. Each image must be numbered and named with the project name and very brief description (e.g. #1 Stanley Hall, rear façade). Attach the images to the same email as your nomination document noted below. Horizontal photos are preferred. Photos should show some of the outstanding preservation work the nominee has accomplished; before and after images are helpful.

Nominations must be completed electronically as a Word document and submitted following the instructions provided at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/about/ExcellenceHistPres-submit.html.

All nominations are due by 11:59 p.m. PDT on April 16, 2021.

Complete submissions must be received by the deadline to be considered. Supplemental information received after the deadline will not be considered.

A jury of HUD and ACHP representatives will review the nominations for the ACHP/HUD Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation and recommend a winner. The finalist will be notified by early September. Award announcement and presentation will be made at a special ceremony related to the fall 2021 ACHP business meeting (location to be determined).

To review descriptions of previous award-winning projects, go to www.huduser.gov. Projects are listed under Secretary's Awards.

Contact 1-800-245-2691 or helpdesk@huduser.gov with any questions.