



Lisa Bryer, Town Planner, accepting for the TOWN OF JAMESTOWN – Housing Network of Rhode Island 2017 HOUSING INNOVATION AWARD

The Housing Innovation Award seeks to recognize innovative thinking and action to advance affordable housing in Rhode Island.



Since 2005, the Town of Jamestown's ongoing efforts to develop housing opportunities for low and moderate income households through financial and policy commitments, coupled with a highly engaged Affordable Housing Commission, has demonstrated a level of leadership and innovative thinking that made them a natural fit for this award. The Town of Jamestown has proactively sought to address housing affordability barriers in their municipality. Dealing with the issues of limited land availability and high development costs head on, Jamestown has shown that affordable housing can be developed despite difficult circumstances. Their use of zoning ordinance changes to create development incentives such as minimum lot size waivers and allowing for accessory family dwelling units within the Village District coupled with the establishment of an annual town

funded Affordable Housing Trust and a Revolving Bond Fund has had a direct impact on their community, successfully bringing thirteen affordable housing opportunities on line. Without these resources, the development of four single family homes, and five rental units would not have been possible. In acknowledgement of their proactive and innovative approach to creating new affordable housing opportunities, the Housing Network of Rhode Island is pleased to award the Town of Jamestown the Housing Innovation Award.