

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING NAMES 40 PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES TO 2015-2016 HONOR ROLL

WASHINGTON, D.C. January 24, 2017 – The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading today names 40 public housing agencies (PHAs) to its 2015-2016 Honor Roll for exemplary work to boost children’s literacy.

More than one million children from birth to age 8 are living in public housing in the United States. Research shows that 80 percent of children from low-income families enter kindergarten so far behind that they do not catch up and are unable to read proficiently by the end of third grade, a key predictor of high school graduation.

“Housing is a critical platform and portal for early learning and early school success,” said Ralph Smith, managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. “We applaud and celebrate each of these public housing agencies for taking up the challenge to increase reading proficiency, improve the overall academic achievement and ultimately improve the life trajectories of children in low-income families. Their commitment to maintain, strengthen and scale existing literacy programs and partnerships demonstrates that the momentum for this work will continue to build.”

The PHAs named to the GLR Campaign’s 2015-2016 Honor Roll are recognized for their leadership in one or more of the following areas:

- **Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence):** Exemplary work to raise awareness in PHA communities about chronic absenteeism and the importance of attending school every day.
- **Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments):** Exemplary work to transform PHA communities into book-rich environments.
- **Pacesetter (HUD/GLR Memorandum of Understanding):** Partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the GLR Campaign to promote and increase the work being done across the country to improve the grade-level reading skills of children living in federally assisted housing.

- **Pacesetter (Read for the Record):** Participation in Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*® campaign, an annual event that inspires adults to read with children, spurs policymakers and organizations to take action toward transformative change in early education, and puts books in the hands of more children across the country.
- **Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments):** Commitment to co-designing and participating in the Book-Rich Environments Initiative, a collaborative effort newly launched by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Education. The initiative aims to establish strong, local coalitions that support PHAs nationwide with providing diverse, high-quality books and literacy support to children and families living in public and HUD-assisted housing.

Honorees on the GLR Campaign's 2015-2016 Honor Roll

ARIZONA

City of Chandler Housing Authority

Amy Jacobson, Acting Housing & Redevelopment Manager

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

The City of Phoenix Housing Department

Cindy Stotler, Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU) Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

CALIFORNIA

Contra Costa County Housing Authority

Joseph Villarreal, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Fresno Housing Authority

Preston Prince, Chief Executive Officer/ Executive Director

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Doug Guthrie, President and Chief Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Marin County Housing Authority

Lewis Jordan, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments)

Oakland Housing Authority

Eric Johnson, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence)

San Diego Housing Commission

Richard C. Gentry, President and Chief Executive Officer

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Hope SF – San Francisco Housing Authority

Theodore Miller, Director, HOPE SF, Mayor's Office, City and County of San Francisco

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence)

Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin

Peter Ragsdale, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

San Mateo County Department of Housing

Ken Cole, Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Housing Authority of Stanislaus County

Barbara Kauss, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

COLORADO

Boulder Housing Partners

Betsey Martens, Executive Director

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

FLORIDA

Sarasota Housing Authority

William Russell, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Tampa Housing Authority

Jerome Ryans, Executive Director

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

IDAHO

Nampa Housing Authority

Andy Rodriguez, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Housing Authority of the City of Pocatello

Sunny Shaw, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

INDIANA

Fort Wayne Housing Authority

George Guy, Chief Executive Officer/ Executive Director

Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

KANSAS

Topeka Housing Authority

Sophie George, President and Chief Executive Officer

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge Housing Authority

Gregory P. Russ, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

New Bedford Housing Authority

Steve Beauregard, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Springfield Housing Authority

William Abrashkin, Chief Executive Officer

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

MISSOURI

Kansas City Housing Authority

Edwin Lowndes, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence), Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

MONTANA

Housing Authority of Billings

Lucy Brown, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

NORTH CAROLINA

Durham Housing Authority

Anthony Scott, Chief Executive Officer

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments),

Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

OHIO

Akron Housing Authority

Anthony O'Leary, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

Gregory D. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership

Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

Jeffrey Patterson, Chief Executive Officer

Pacesetter (Read for the Record),

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

TEXAS

Brownsville Housing Authority

Carla Mancha, Chief Executive Officer

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Edinburg Housing Authority

Rudy Ramirez, Chief Executive Officer

Pacesetter (Read for the Record), Leadership

Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Gregory Housing Authority

Yvette Nieto, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Harlingen Housing Authority

Hilda Benavides, Executive Director

Pacesetter (Read for the Record),

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

Houston Housing Authority

Tory Gunsolley, President and

Chief Executive Officer

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

San Antonio Housing Authority

David Nisivoccia, President and

Chief Executive Officer

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence),

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

VIRGINIA

City of Roanoke Development and Housing Authority

Glenda Edwards Goh, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments),

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership

Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

WASHINGTON

King County Housing Authority

Stephen Norman, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence)

Seattle Housing Authority

Andrew Lofton, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence)

Tacoma Housing Authority

Michael Mirra, Executive Director

Bright Spot (Book-Rich Environments),

Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), Leadership

Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

District of Columbia Housing Authority

Adrienne Todman, Executive Director

Leadership Cohort (Book-Rich Environments)

WISCONSIN

Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

Antonio M. Pérez, Secretary-Executive Director

Bright Spot (Attendance/Chronic Absence)

Visit gradelevelreading.net/housingnews to read more about the GLR Campaign's focus on housing.

About the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Launched in May 2010, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort of funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that many more children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. Since its launch, the GLR Campaign has grown to include more than 285 communities, representing 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 2,300 local organizations (including 130 United Ways and 250 state and local funders). To learn more, visit gradelevelreading.net and follow the movement on Twitter [@readingby3rd](https://twitter.com/readingby3rd).

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