



Stephanie Murphy Receives Prestigious 2021 Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award



Congratulations to Neighborhood Finance Corporation Executive Director Stephanie Murphy for being honored with the 2021 Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award by the Iowa Finance Authority at their annual HousingIowa Awards.

The criteria for the award desires a person that shines a light on areas of need and demonstrates an elevated level of service commitment to improving the lives of Iowans. Under Stephanie's leadership, Neighborhood Finance Corporation has grown in Polk County and expanded to help meet housing needs in Cedar Rapids and Linn County.

The Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award was created in honor of the late Kay Anderson, a long-time member of the Iowa Finance Authority Board of Directors and resident of Le Mars.

More information about the HousingIowa Award winners is available at iowafinance.com.

[Learn More!](#)

Collaborative PATCH Program Recognized as 2021 HousingIowa Innovation Award Winner



Neighborhood Finance Corporation collaborated with other organizations to develop a program to support the needs of derecho-impacted homeowners in Cedar Rapids. They coined it PATCH, which stands for Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners.

The program provides a seamless process for homeowners to navigate as they seek assistance for home repairs starting with a single point of entry and screening process to determine the situation for each homeowner. A unique component was a forgivable loan for repairs with funding needed upfront to keep projects moving. This successful partnership has helped nearly 200 homeowners through an extraordinary time.

In recognition of the unique and collaborative approach, the PATCH Program received the Innovation Award at the Iowa Finance Authority's 2021 HousingIowa Awards in September.

NFC Receives Grants to Support Efforts to Expand Minority Homeownership



We are pleased to announce that Neighborhood Finance Corporation received grants from Wells Fargo and Bank of America to support our efforts to increase homeownership for minorities.

There is a significant discrepancy when considering homeownership by race and ethnicity.

According to [Eye on Housing](#), ethnic minorities – including African-Americans & Hispanics – are 50% less likely to own their home than their white (non-Hispanic) counterparts. We are committed to changing these statistics in our lending areas to create a future that revitalizes our neighborhoods and positions our communities for future growth and stability.

The Wells Fargo Foundation awarded funding to launch a new program with community partners, including the [One Economy Financial Development Corp](#), to expand homeownership opportunities for African American, Latinx, and Asian American households in our lending areas. The \$30,000 grant will, in part, support our new Diversity & Inclusion Mortgage Loan Originator & Outreach Coordinator position.

We are also honored to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to further our efforts to reach minority populations with the unique home loan programs we offer. The funds are essential as many minorities face obstacles to owning their own home that may seem impossible. We are committed to providing equitable access to homeownership for all.

Thank you to both the Wells Fargo Foundation and Bank of America Charitable Foundation for recognizing the need to improve homeownership for minorities and for being our loyal partner for the past several years. The need is great, but our mission becomes a little easier with support from these companies.



NFC Hires Diversity & Inclusion Mortgage Loan Originator and Outreach Coordinator

Join us in welcoming Bridgett Robinson as our new Diversity & Inclusion Mortgage Loan Originator & Outreach Coordinator. This new role resulted from a \$1.27 million award NFC received to increase minority homeownership in Polk and Linn counties.

An essential part of Bridgett's job is to connect with community leaders and members to help close the gap in African-American homeownership. In doing so, she will carry out NFC's mission to communicate the various programs NFC offers that will revitalize and uplift neighborhoods throughout our lending areas.

Bridgett has always been passionate about her community and the organizations that make it a great place to live. Before joining NFC, she was a part of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines's Community Impact Team. Her voice may sound familiar from her years

reporting morning traffic on various Des Moines radio stations. She also worked for many years on festivals like CelebrAsian and 515Alive. She currently serves on the Skate DSM board, helping to grow and create awareness around the excellent skateboarding community Des Moines offers.

According to Bridgett, *“Homeownership can come off as complicated, and to some individuals, almost impossible to obtain, but educating yourself and creating generational wealth through homeownership are the first steps to creating safe, stable, and beautiful neighborhoods in your community.”*

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