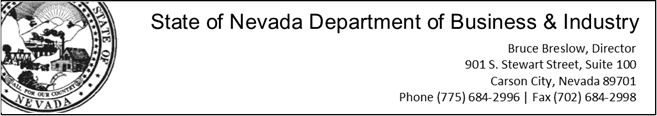
**Good Morning- Please see the release below announcing the 2014 Department of Business and Industry Agency of the Year award recipient.  The proclamation presented to the agency by Director Breslow is attached.  The proclamation will be uploaded to business.nv.gov as soon as technical website issues are resolved.**



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**For Immediate Release: December 24, 2014**

**Nevada Housing Division named 2014 Business and Industry Agency of the Year**

**Carson City, NV**- Nevada Department of Business and Industry Director Bruce Breslow announced that the Nevada Housing Division has been named the Department’s 2014 Agency of the Year.  The award was presented to Administrator CJ Manthe and agency staff in recognition of the agency’s accomplishments that have positively impacted thousands of Nevadans.

“*The Housing Division has undergone a complete rebuild and modernization in order to help a much larger number of Nevada families*,” said Bruce Breslow, Director of the Department of Business and Industry. *“I salute CJ and her outstanding team of professionals for creating several new programs that make a difference in people’s ability to afford a home.”*

Established by the Nevada Legislature in 1975, the Nevada Housing Division is the State’s housing finance agency. The Division was created to encourage the investment of private capital and stimulate the funding of affordable housing through the use of public financing to develop safe, decent and sanitary housing for low-income individuals and families throughout the state.

In 2014, the Division awarded $6.4 million in housing tax credits to fund 10 projects to develop or revitalize 618 affordable housing units, which bring the total number of units funded by Division programs to 25,000 since inception. According to the Division, the economic impact of the construction related expenditures from the awarded 2014 tax credits will translate to 778 jobs and new labor income of more than $42 million.

Under the leadership of Administrator CJ Manthe, the agency has expanded existing programs and introduced new programs to benefit homebuyers, seniors, veterans, and low income individuals and families. “*It is so rewarding for our team when we help Nevada families achieve their homeownership dream. Our goal next year is to help more than 2,000 Nevadan’s make that dream come true*,” said Manthe.

Key initiatives and new or expanded programs include:

* **Home is Possible**, a new homebuyer down payment assistance program introduced this year that has tripled the number of families achieving homeownership through Division programs.
* **NVHousingSearch.org**, an online housing search tool containing a database of thousands of affordable and market rate rental properties available throughout the state.
* Veterans programs and initiatives including **Home is Possible for Heroes**, a homebuyer program which provides below-market interest rate mortgage loans for veterans, and dedicated tax credit funding allocations to construct a veteran’s housing facility with supportive services.
* Partnered with Nevada Rural Housing Authority to expand the **Mortgage Tax Credit Certificate Program** to Clark and Washoe counties, which can provide homeowners annual federal tax savings of approximately $2,000 per year.
* Partnered with the Governor’s Office of Energy to establish the **Home Energy Retrofit Opportunities for Seniors (HEROS)** weatherization program to provide free energy efficiency services for low income seniors.

In addition to program enhancements, the agency has greatly improved public communication and awareness of agency initiatives through the launch of a new website, social media outreach and proactive news releases

To view the proclamation and award, visit [www.business.nv.gov](http://www.business.nv.gov).  To learn more about the Nevada Housing Division, please visit [www.housing.nv.gov](http://www.housing.nv.gov).

**About the Department of Business and Industry**

The Department of Business and Industry is a cabinet level agency in Nevada State government. Our objective is to encourage and promote the development and growth of business and to ensure the legal operation of business in order to protect consumers by maintaining a fair and competitive regulatory environment. The Director’s office manages a number of programs and initiatives to address the needs of small businesses, homeowners and consumers including small business advocacy, bond programs, access to capital, housing retention programs, constituent services and fraud prevention and education.