

**INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE
SHIELDS SIMS HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

JULY 14, 2026

MAHRO is requesting nominations for this year's Shields Sims Humanitarian Award to be presented at the MAHRO Annual Conference in August. Please read carefully the attached information sheet, which will answer of your questions about the award, selection criteria, how to nominate someone in your authority, etc... This award is a wonderful opportunity for your Authority to acknowledge an employee whose character, professionalism, and public service indicate performance "over and above."

Nominations must be received by 3:00 p.m. CST, **Wednesday, July 29, 2026**. Please email your nominations to Sanqnetta S. Givens, MAHRO Vice President of Member Services, Natchez Housing Authority, at san_snell@yahoo.com.

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS

THE SHIELDS SIMS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Shields Sims Humanitarian Award was proposed by the staff of the Columbus Housing Authority and approved by the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MAHRO) in 2001. Mr. Sims was honored as the first award recipient on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the Columbus Housing Authority and again at the 2002 MAHRO Annual Conference.

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual public housing employee for outstanding humanitarian efforts by providing quality services that are the catalyst for changes, which positively impact the residents of public housing and their housing community. The spirit of the award is a tangible acknowledgment of service above and beyond the call of duty for the individual whose primary motivation is to make a contribution to the families we serve, not just collect a salary.

To be an eligible nominee, the individual must be a current employee of a Mississippi housing authority at the time of nomination and must be nominated by his/her housing authority. The nominating authority must be a current MAHRO member.

Three Selection Criteria have been established. They are:

- ❖ **CHARACTER**
- ❖ **PROFESSIONALISM**
- ❖ **PUBLIC SERVICE**

The person being nominated for the Shields Sims Humanitarian Award must be a person known for good morale character, exhibiting qualities of honesty and integrity and with a desire to a “good Samaritan”. Additionally, the person being nominated must exhibit professional excellence, not just by the tangible measurement of work skills, but by the spirit in which his/her services are rendered to those in need of them. Further, the nominee must be involved in service not only to the public housing community, but to the larger community exhibited by civic and/or church involvement.

Written nominations must be received within the time frame given in the annual invitation for nominations. The invitation will be sent to all MAHRO members at least three (3) months prior to the annual convention to allow adequate time to receive the nominations, review them and make a selection.

The nomination must be typed and may be no more than two letter size pages, single-spaced. The nomination must include the following:

- The name of the person being nominated, their employment title and the name of the Authority submitting the nomination;
- The date of the nomination;
- A narrative addressing the three selection criteria of character, professionalism and public service;
- A narrative summary of the activities/projects, etc. that the nominator feels makes the nominee worth of the nomination.

All such nominations **must** be received by the deadline given in the annual invitation for nominations to be considered for the Shields Sims Humanitarian Award. The nominations will be reviewed, and a selection made by a three-member committee appointed by the MAHRO President.

The recipient of the Shields Sims Humanitarian Award will be presented a plaque by the MAHRO President at the MAHRO Annual Conference. Additionally, the recipient and one guest of his/her choice will receive free MAHRO registration for the year's annual conference.