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Bruce Rauner, Governor

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## **Illinois Housing Development Authority Board Names New Executive Director**

*Industry Executive Brings Decades of Experience in Housing Policy, Finance and Development*

**CHICAGO** – The Members of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) today voted to appoint Audra Hamernik as the new executive director of the state’s housing finance agency. Hamernik has more than 20 years of public and private industry housing experience, bringing a strong background in housing policy, finance and development to the position.

“Audra Hamernik has a distinguished career with a successful track record in affordable housing development and administration,” IHDA Board Chairman Joseph P. Galvan said. “She is a proven manager who has consistently generated positive results for public and private entities across the state, and her advocacy will be a valuable asset to the Authority as we expand opportunities for homeownership, affordable rental housing and community development throughout Illinois.”

As principal of A. Hamernik & Associates, Hamernik led a consulting firm that advised local governments and not-for-profit agencies on affordable housing development, financial feasibility, development design and funding strategies. Under her leadership, the firm secured over \$100 million in financing and equity for clients. Hamernik was also the Executive Director and Founder of Bluestem Housing Partners, a not-for-profit organization that developed over 300 affordable apartments for working families. In these roles she is credited with the creation of successful business proposals to banks, private foundations, and state and federal funding sources, as well as the coordination of complex financings that layered public and private funds to build high-quality, affordable housing. Prior to founding Bluestem, Hamernik served as Assistant Community Development Director for the Village of Villa Park and as Senior Planner for DuPage County. She was raised in Goreville, a small town in Johnson County in far southern Illinois, and earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As Executive Director, Hamernik will be responsible for the efficient operation and growth of the Authority as it works with public and private investors, developers, lenders, community organizations and other government agencies to finance quality affordable housing across the state. She will assume her new role immediately.

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA ([www.ihda.org](http://www.ihda.org)) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation in 1967, IHDA has allocated \$14.6 billion and financed approximately 245,000 affordable housing units for residents of Illinois.

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