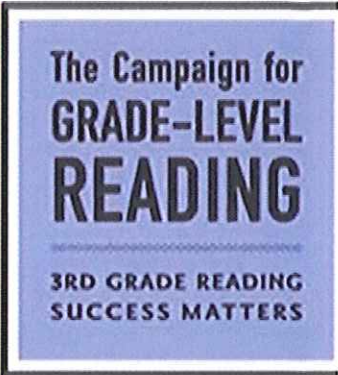


**For Immediate Release**



**Contact:** Ernestine Benedict  
202.491.395  
ebenedict@gradelevelreading.net

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



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** January 23, 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 10 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 trajectory 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 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 connect PHAs nationwide with providing diverse, high-quality books and literacy support to children and families living in 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)

#### 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)

#### 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**

**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**

*Betsy Martens, Executive Director*  
Pacesetter (HUD/GLR MOU), 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)

*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](http://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](http://gradelevelreading.net) and follow the movement on Twitter [@readingby3rd](https://twitter.com/readingby3rd).

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- [Press Release on GLR Website](#)

[gradelevelreading.net](http://gradelevelreading.net)



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Campaign for Grade-Level Reading  
1602 L Street NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
United States