



HCCP Board of Governors Spotlight: Robin Thorne

Vice President, Training & Asset Management
RTHawk Housing Alliance

Robin Thorne is the Vice President, Training and Asset Management for RTHawk Housing, a Native American-owned, Tribally chartered consulting firm. The firm specializes in developing affordable housing and providing asset management services for Indian Country communities. Robin has been working with tribal clients in developing and managing their affordable housing projects since 2003. Robin works directly with tribal housing authority staff to ensure compliance with LIHTC, NAHASDA, AHP and other affordable housing program requirements. She is a frequent speaker at industry trainings and events, conducts seminars and makes regular on-site visits to clients and tribal partners. With the National American Indian Housing Council, Robin created the NAHASDA & Tax Credit Compliance Professional (NTCCP) curriculum and national certification program, which designates professional experience and expertise in continuing operational compliance under the two programs. She also works with tribal clients, tribal advocacy groups, state allocating agencies and elected officials to ensure that tax credit and grant programs policies reflect the concerns and needs of tribal organizations.

Robin is certified as a National Compliance Professional Executive (NCPE) and serves on the NCP Advisory Board for the Housing Credit College. She is also a Housing Credit Certified Professional (HCCP), designated by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and is a member of the HCCP Board of Governors. Robin graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in communications and English.

Question: How has the HCCP designation affected your career?

The HCCP designation is a nationally recognized certification that provides our LIHTC clients and investors with an increased level of confidence with regard to my knowledge of the LIHTC program. It has also provided an introduction to some of the top compliance professionals in the LIHTC industry. All the RTHawk senior compliance staff members hold the HCCP certification, and we require all of our compliance staff members to work toward obtaining their HCCP certifications.

Question: How did you get into the LIHTC industry?

My love of horses was responsible for my introduction to the LIHTC industry. One of my best friends, who I met through a mutual love of all things related to horses, was working for a nationally recognized LIHTC syndicator and then a consulting firm specializing in the use of the LIHTC program on tribal affordable housing projects. She recommended me for an available position with her company, and the rest is history.

Question: What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

I oversee a six-person Asset Management team whose members are responsible for tenant file reviews, State Housing Authority reporting, investor reporting, preparation of overall project budgets and overall LIHTC project troubleshooting. I also provide on-site training and initial rent-up assistance for our clients, and occasionally travel to Washington, D.C., to discuss the importance of the LIHTC program with members of Congress.

Question: What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?

The HCCP designation and the contacts the HCCP program has provided have been a significant part of my overall success in the LIHTC industry. All the great people that I have had the honor of working with over the years has been a major contributing factor with regard to my achievements in working with the LIHTC program. Affordable housing is all about people — the people who plan LIHTC projects, the people who finance them, the people who operate them, the people who work with the state housing agencies and the people who reside in our units. The opportunity to work with so many dedicated and talented people has been the biggest key to my success. It is a continuing privilege to work with so many talented individuals who are all dedicated to providing affordable housing in our communities!

Question: What's your favorite hobby?

Anything to do with horses!