



Karen Wilds Executive Director

Karen has been part of the leadership team at NNRHA for over 37 years, beginning as the Community Development Department Director in 1985. Her previous experience in housing includes a six-year stint at the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Prior to that, she held positions with the Institute for Criminal Justice of the College of William & Mary. She has been past President of the Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials, the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium, the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and served on the Governor's Housing Policy workgroup.

Quote: "It is important to address issues of housing affordability and stability because of their fundamental role in health, education, safety, earning power and ability to thrive in all aspects of life."

She is currently the Board Chair of VCDC, a statewide Community Development Corporation and on the board of the Newport News Rotary Club.

As NNRHA's Executive Director, she spearheads community revitalization, housing development, homeownership programs and services to NNRHA's resident population. She is a Newport News native and values the contributions she has made to her home town.

In addition to a bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport University, she holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University.

When not working, she enjoys yoga, walking and time with family and friends.