

Biographical Statement

Vanessa Baker-Latimer

Housing Coordinator – City of Ames

A native of North Carolina, Vanessa Baker-Latimer has led the City of Ames Housing Division for more than 33 years. As Housing Coordinator, Baker-Latimer manages the City's affordable housing and administers the City's Community Development Block Grant funds. Her responsibilities include administering the City's various affordable housing programs; seeking local, state or federal funds; writing and administering state and federal grant programs; developing and implementing program guidelines; preparing budgets, audit reports, quarterly and program close-out reports; conducting home-buyer educational seminars; assisting participants in the home buying process; conducting housing presentations to City Council, state and federal organizations and other professional organizations at the local, state and national levels; and performing inspections of program homes. In addition to her official job duties, she is also a facilitator for the City of Ames which includes teaching leadership classes and other responsibilities through the City's Excellence Through People model. Additionally, she prepares and oversees the department's \$2.5 million annual budget.

Since her start in 1983, Vanessa has been in charge of overseeing the successful distribution and management of over approximately \$31 million in federal, state grant funds for the benefit of the City and its citizens.

Baker-Latimer received her bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University, in Orangeburg, S.C. and her master's degree in public administration from Iowa State University. She was recognized by the Ames Tribune Business Quarterly as one of the Lending Women in Ames. She has received numerous of awards and recognitions. She is involved in many local many local organizations and his active in her church. She is the Immediate Past President of the Des Moines Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and serves as a board member on the Central Area Board of The Links, Incorporated.

She has been married to college sweetheart for the over 33 years. Her goal is to leave something better than she found it, and her motto to live by is "To whom much is given, much shall be required" (Luke 12:48).