

Attorney General National Foreclosure Settlement (NFS) Experts and Technical Assistance Providers: Summary of Primary Assignments and New Tools

To support neighborhoods and households struggling with the ripple effects of the foreclosure crisis statewide, Attorney General Lisa Madigan has awarded \$70 million from the National Foreclosure Settlement (NFS) to approximately 50 agencies and initiatives throughout the state of Illinois. To promote the overall success of these investments while promoting “best practices” and capacity building statewide, a team of experts and technical assistance providers are contributing a variety of new tools and resources as follows:

The following entities have already developed new tools that are available on line:

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP): Developed the new [Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit, a new web tool](#) to promote subregional land-use planning and investment, helping public and private sector partners to prioritize target areas and criteria for redevelopment. CMAP is also providing technical assistance to targeted awardees.

DePaul Institute of Housing Studies and Woodstock Institute: Providing their databases and on-line mapping and data analysis tools as needed to inform all awardees in assessing target areas, progress, etc. Both DePaul and Woodstock are providing some TA to all awardees, while collecting data for broader evaluation of NFS investment impact. DePaul has developed a quarterly Cook County [Housing Price Index](#). Here are links for the [Compendium](#), [Data portal](#), and [Map](#) tools from Woodstock.

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus: Establishing an affordable and high-impact code enforcement strategy in Chicago’s southern suburbs that addresses the increased presence of cash investors and improves the quality of the subregion’s housing stock in collaboration with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Center for Community Progress. [Extensive research and case studies are now available for users online, via Up to Code](#), and are informative to other municipalities pursuing improved code enforcement strategies and an effective regulatory framework.

Mission + Strategy Consulting: Promoting “best practices” for collaborations for all awardees -- and providing targeted technical assistance among particular interdisciplinary teams, as well as various awardees working in targeted locations, to ensure optimal coordination and efficiency. [Click here for the Housing Collaborative Template](#), which contains sample agendas, job descriptions for teams and team leaders, a sample memorandum of agenda, instructions for giving feedback, and more.

The following entities also either have educational materials piloted or in development, and/or providing individualized technical assistance:

Access Living: Supplementing its housing counseling in support of City of Chicago households with disabilities who have been living in neighborhoods destabilized by the foreclosure crisis, Access Living is also informing broader AG-funded training activities to improve the accessible housing opportunities available to disabled households statewide. With CAFHA and CSH, Access Living has informed the development of a webinar based on its training curriculum.

Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA): Promoting nationally recognized housing strategies for affirmatively furthering fair housing and advancing Fair Housing Equity Assessments via training to all awardees, and individualized assistance for 10-12 particular awardees. With Access Living and CSH, CAFHA is developing a webinar based on its training curriculum.

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH): Educating revitalization awardees about integrating special needs populations into housing communities statewide, including resources available to support that work. CSH is creating new training materials for a webinar on state policy and supportive housing needs, and coordinating with CAFHA and Access Living on their materials as well.

Housing Action Illinois (HAI)/NeighborWorks America (NW): Providing trainings for all teams and stand-alone housing counseling awardees as well as coordinating with Expert awardees to develop best practices to ensure consistent quality standards for the full range of housing counseling services required in foreclosure response work. Team will also provide individualized assistance to approximately 20 awardees to ensure consistent quality standards and to promote their optimal integration into the redevelopment teams to attract and prepare end buyers and renters. Please note that HAI also posts the webinars and other training activities for all the other awardees.

Housing Action Illinois (HAI)/Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS): Providing comprehensive information on available technology to meet the client management system needs of housing counseling agencies in order to promote accurate data entry, streamlined reporting, and uniform outcome measurements statewide. Up to 35 grantees will also receive technical assistance and subsidies to improve their client management systems as needed.

Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA): Expanding the Illinois Community Action Networks provision of housing counseling services among 15 agencies in underserved rural communities.

National Consumer Law Center (NCLC): Developing educational materials for housing counselors and legal assistance providers to address the current barriers and communication breakdowns preventing optimal coordination, especially related to court mediation programs, and to recommend ways to work together more efficiently.

Teska Associates/Axia Development Inc: Providing a variety of real estate development assistance to targeted awardees, promoting quality and cost-effective redevelopment activities that are appropriately financed and that strategically respond to market analysis.