



HOUSING ACTION MEMBER PACKET

2025



Housing
Action
Illinois





Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home

Welcome!

As a member of Housing Action Illinois, you join a network of more than 190 organizations, all united in our mission to advance quality, affordable homes for all. Our members are at the heart of our work—you strengthen our collective voice to secure more resources and better housing policies for our communities. Thank you for being a part of our movement to create **an Illinois where everyone has a good, affordable, accessible place to call home.**

Since our founding more than 35 years ago, we've brought together hundreds of supporters to make progress toward a more equitable Illinois. Our work has led to tens of thousands of new homes being built, hundreds of thousands of people going from housing insecurity to stable homes, and millions of renters gaining protections. **Working in partnership, we've created access and housing opportunities in every community throughout Illinois.**

With your help, we look forward to building on our [accomplishments](#)—securing critical investments and equitable policy changes that have helped millions of Illinoisans, facilitating trainings for thousands of housing professionals, and much more.

We're here to support and connect you. Through our Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy, and Public Education & Organizing programs, we aim to help your organization and our field grow and thrive. In this packet, you'll find information on:

- Our members & mission
- Your membership benefits
- Trainings, events, & our conference
- Our staff & board

We hope you'll [sign up for our bimonthly newsletter](#) and follow us on social media. We're active on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#). We regularly share policy updates, trainings, and resources we think will be helpful to our members.

If you have any questions, please email membership@housingactionil.org.

Thank you,

The Housing Action Illinois Team

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

We help our member organizations connect, learn, advocate, and grow through our Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy, and Public Education & Organizing programs. As a member of our coalition, all staff at your organization have access to member benefits.

CONNECT & LEARN

Annual Conference

Members enjoy significantly discounted registration for our annual [Housing Matters Conference](#). Our **2025 Housing Matters conference** will be in **Bloomington on October 16-17**. Our conference is a chance for both newcomers and experts to gather, share best practices, and get the latest updates on affordable housing and homelessness.

In 2024, we brought together **335 participants**. During our opening keynote, we welcomed HUD's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Counseling, David Berenbaum, who discussed upcoming priorities and new initiatives HUD is undertaking. For our closing plenary, we were joined by the Mayor of Decatur Julie Moore Wolfe, the Mayor of Bloomington Mboka Mwilambwe, and Councilmember Bobby Burns from the City of Evanston to discuss local strategies to increase the supply of homes to meet community needs. We also facilitated 18 breakout workshop sessions.

Trainings & Events

Throughout the year, we host a variety of trainings, webinars, and events, all of which are available to our member organizations. Some of these are free, and we offer our members occasional training discounts and scholarships throughout the year. Our 2025 trainings will be virtual and in-person. [View our trainings calendar »](#)

Networking & Peer Learning

Housing Action Illinois fosters collaboration and peer learning opportunities among our members. We facilitate monthly conversations among Continuum of Care leaders, connect organizations to learn from each other, and host occasional networking opportunities in addition to our conference, such as our [Toast to Housing Justice](#), our annual benefit, which will be on **April 24, 2025**, at **Catalyst Ranch** in **Chicago**.



Get the Word Out

We encourage you to send us your organization's upcoming events and job postings for inclusion in our bimonthly newsletter, which goes to **7,900+ subscribers**. You are also welcome to send resources, and opportunities for us to share with our networks. In addition, we publish Member Spotlights on our website to highlight our members' achievements and ongoing work. Let us know if you would like to be considered for a future spotlight by emailing communications@housingactionil.org.

In addition, when doing media outreach on our issues, we reach out to member organizations for press release quotes and refer reporters for interviews.

GROW

Host an AmeriCorps Member

As a member of Housing Action, your organization is eligible to apply to host full-year AmeriCorps position(s) through **Housing Action Corps**.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that connects people and organizations to help end poverty and strengthen communities. Housing Action manages a network of **up to 60 AmeriCorps members** who serve full-time at host organizations. Their service lasts 12 months. AmeriCorps positions can assist with an array of indirect services, including grant writing, organizing volunteer programs, developing new training curricula, and growing existing programs and services.

[Learn more about hosting an AmeriCorps VISTA »](#)

Trainings & One-on-One Guidance

Our staff is made up of experts with decades of experience working in the field of housing and homelessness.

Our Capacity Building Team supports member organizations, especially housing counseling agencies, through one-on-one guidance. We can help you prepare for a HUD review, give advice on expanding programs, or assist in navigating other challenges.

Housing Action Illinois is now one of six organizations in the nation to receive a HUD Training Award. This enables us to provide a robust lineup of national trainings through our **Housing Action Training Center** to help housing counseling agencies become more effective, expand programs, and develop skills to meet changing needs.



"Our VISTA accomplished unparalleled work on one of our biggest in-kind holiday campaigns ever. We just could not have done it without her, and I never dreamed we could be as successful as we were in the first year of trying to build something new. I've worked with a lot of people over the years, but our VISTA is so far above average in terms of her work ethic, attention to detail, project management skill and positive attitude that she deserves the highest praise!"

Betsy Leonard, Heartland Alliance



We also support housing developers, land banks, and other organizations with individual advice and support on a case-by-case basis, and our Policy Advocacy team has helped assess the potential of local initiatives. Our Communications & Development team has given advice on pitching op-eds, social media campaigns, framing your message, and storytelling.



Housing Action Counseling Network

As a HUD Housing Counseling Intermediary, we secure funding from HUD and pass it on to an **affiliate network of 35 HUD-approved housing counseling agencies** in the nation. We help these agencies with administrative functions and assist each agency to ensure it meets program standards and client needs. We aid them in expanding funds, leveraging other resources, compiling reports, training staff, and staying abreast of new funding opportunities. With our support and resources, these agencies are able to help more families and create more change in their communities.



ADVOCATE

Stay Informed & Amplify Your Voice

We keep track of what is happening in Springfield and Washington D.C. for you. We advocate and mobilize around key issues for housing and homelessness, including:

- Making rent affordable
- Ending homelessness
- Addressing Eviction
- Sustainable homeownership
- Advancing civil rights & housing
- Housing for people with records

[View our 2024 Policy Agenda »](#)

Housing Action Illinois is in continuous contact with legislators, advocates, and allies throughout Illinois. Our 2025 Policy Agenda will be released soon. We want to ensure that the members of our coalition have a platform to share their work and speak up for change. We **keep you updated** about the latest developments in housing policy, **organize issue-specific working groups, coordinate meetings with legislators, and mobilize organizations and individuals** in support of campaigns.



As a member, we may include you in collaborative advocacy opportunities with key decision makers, share local data to equip you in making the case to invest in expanding affordable housing and ending homelessness, connect you with media to speak about how an issue is affecting your community, or ask for your input.

By talking with our members—who experience these issues firsthand through their work and everyday life—we identify trends and opportunities, shed light on the real-life impacts of legislation, and better understand the ways in which we can shape future initiatives to address housing issues. [Join our email list for advocacy alerts »](#)

Strengthen the Movement

Together, we are stronger. For over 35 years, Housing Action Illinois has worked in pursuit of an Illinois where everyone has a place to call home. Our policy advocacy, capacity building, and educational work have won us many victories, expanding access to housing and bringing us closer to our goal of an Illinois where everyone has a good, stable home.

Without your help, none of our work would be possible. **Thank you.**

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Housing Action’s Board of Directors at our 2024 Housing Matters Conference

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*Housing Action's staff at our
2024 Housing Matters
Conference*