Our network of 50+ AmeriCorps VISTAs, placed at our member organizations throughout the state, spend from 10 weeks to a full year working on projects that help end poverty and homelessness through affordable housing and economic empowerment initiatives.

We held nearly 20 workshops to train 292 housing counselors, who help families find and keep good homes.

"Too many people don't know their rights, or even that they have rights," says Lupe, who became a housing counselor at Centro Romero after attending half a dozen of our trainings. In just her first year, she helped 42 households understand their housing options. Lupe eagerly joined our first workshop on rental counseling and immediately put her new knowledge to use by helping a longtime community member avoid eviction.

While continuing our work in Illinois, we increased our federal-level advocacy, speaking up for critical programs that invest in affordable housing and ending homelessness in our communities.

During our 30th anniversary Caravan, we traveled to 20+ organizations to take the pulse of housing issues in Central and Southern Illinois.

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Dear Members and Supporters,

Housing Action Illinois has been那样 the movement for affordable housing in our state for more than three decades. Our destination remains clear: an Illinois where all residents, regardless of income, have a safe, quality, affordable place to call home. From Springfield to Peoria, from Chicago to Springfield, we bring everyone together to map our way to a future where everyone can afford a roof over their head.

Your support helps us continue to push for housing solutions on the map. Thank you!

Sharon Lagenza, Executive Director

Wally King, Co-Chair

Mary Lu Seidel, Co-Chair

capacity building

We can do more and do it better. By providing training, consulting, and resources, we help housing organizations better serve communities throughout Illinois.

Training and Consulting

Through workshops and direct consultation, we help organizations become more efficient, expand their operations, and develop skills to meet changing needs. In 2017, Housing Action was able to go nationwide with new trainings for housing counselors that we have developed in response to community need. While still focusing on Illinois, our Capacity Building Specialists are now also bringing their expertise to states as far as Arizona and as near as Indiana with trainings such as the Fundamentals of Rental Housing Counseling. See the other side of this report to learn how these trainings are already helping housing counselors like Lupa Gacsa serve their communities.

Housing Counseling Intermediary

As an Intermediary, we distribute HUD funds to a network of 26 HUD-approved housing counseling agencies in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. We also help these organizations with administrative functions, freeing them up to focus on helping families find and keep good homes.

In 2017, our Intermediary network helped...

- 2,678 households create healthy budgets
- 10,552 households understand their housing options
- 3,278 households find critical housing information
- 3,266 families buy their first home
- 2,687 households purchase a house
- 905 households prevent or reverse mortgage default
- 1,055 households create healthy budgets

Americans VISTA

In 2017, we managed a network of 27 full-year AmeriCorps VISTAs placed with member organizations throughout the state. We also launched a VISTA Summer Associate program that brought in 30 VISTAs to serve for up to 10 weeks.

In the past year, our VISTAs have recruited and managed nearly 60,000 volunteers and raised more than $550,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

As a VISTA, Kali developed and launched a program called Viviendo Unidos that combines a landlord-tenant matching service with educational workshops and in-depth financial coaching for renters. The primary aim of the program is to preserve and expand affordable rental housing in policymaking communities. Kali continues to work with Vivendo Unidos in her new position as a full-time Rental Counselor at Northside Housing Center.

public policy advocacy

Many voices are stronger than one. We mobilize our members and allies to respond to critical federal and state housing programs. We mobilized 100+ organizations and spoke up in 100+ conversations with legislators and decision makers to advocate for this agenda.

Our federal advocacy is more than just our work with HUD.

Housing Action Illinois bargains for you on the state level. We bring together housing organizations in Illinois and members of both the Illinois House and Senate to advocate for our members and allies. We work with the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Community Action Program, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development, the Illinois Housing Council, and many more to advocate for you.

Thanks to our advocacy work in 2017, Illinois now boasts some of the strongest protections in the nation for homeowners considering rent-to-own contracts. Housing Action Illinois drafted and pushed for this law because we knew a resurgence in predatory contracts from largely unregulated companies targeting low income families, often communities of color. Now, contract terms have to be more transparent, giving more people information to help them make good decisions, and companies that break the law can be penalized.

We secured legislation extending Illinois’ graduated fee on foreclosure filings, which will generate more than $3 million next year to address vacant and abandoned properties and provide housing counseling.

We secured a nearly $1 million increase for the Homelessness Prevention Program, which will prevent or end homelessness for more than 1,200 households.

This makes a difference for women like Mary, a client of Connections for the Homeless (Evanston). She was fleeing domestic violence with her two children. Although Mary was new to a new job and found an apartment, she couldn’t afford the rent before getting her first paycheck. “Using Homelessness Prevention funds, we helped her with a security deposit for the next month,” says Betty A. Ropp, Executive Director for Connections. “She was able to settle in for the first time with her children and avoid entry into the shelter system, which is much costlier.”

$2,248,385

Revenue

$2,196,779

Expenses

Government Grants

$1,575,456

$1,102,613

Foundation Grants

Corporate Contributions

Fundraising

$33,878

$170,177

In Kind

$12,072

Member Ship Dues

$24,111

Total Assets

$4,797,178

Current Liabilities

$879,123

Total Liabilities

$999,055

$92% of our funding is spent on programs