



Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home



January 2023 Newsletter: When You'll Hear | Subscription Updates | 2022 in Review | SOI Protections | Policy Focus | Housing Counselor Dispatch | AmeriCorps Updates | New Board & Staff | Save the Date | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Jobs

When You'll Hear From Us in 2023

This year, we're going to send our newsletter **every other month** instead of every month. We know how quickly email inboxes fill up, and we want to keep from flooding yours.

In addition to our bimonthly newsletter, we will send quarterly updates to our member organizations. We will also share issue updates, program news, and action alerts with people who have subscribed for them.

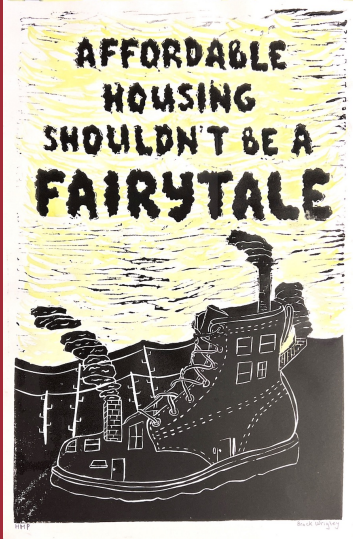
[Manage your email preferences »](#)



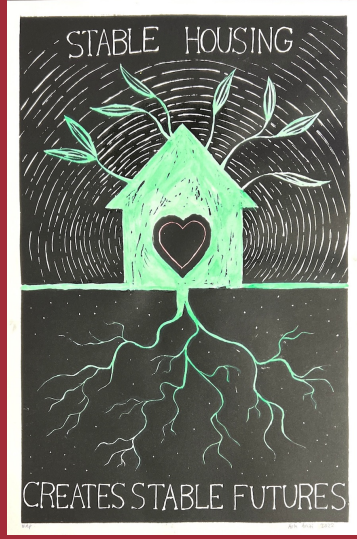
Momentum: 2022 in Review

For 35 years, our coalition has brought together hundreds of organizations and supporters to work toward an Illinois where everyone has a stable, affordable place to call home. In 2022, while celebrating our 35th anniversary and reflecting on past accomplishments, we made critical progress on ending homelessness and expanding affordable housing for all.

Join us in looking back at some of [last year's highlights »](#)



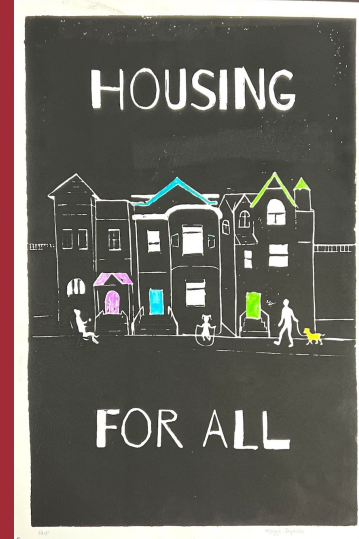
Brock Wrigley



Arta Amiti



Guillermo Zacarias



Maggie Reynolds

Linoleum prints created in the Collaborative Resistance Printshop course at the UIC School of Art & Art History in the spring of 2022. Students in the course created works in response to questions posed by Housing Action Illinois about the future and importance of affordable housing during our 35th anniversary year.

Source of Income Protections Now in Effect

Source of income (SOI) discrimination is when someone is denied the opportunity to even apply for rental housing simply because they will pay rent with non-wage income, such as SSI or Housing Choice Vouchers. Housing Action Illinois and our allies with the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing worked successfully to pass statewide protections against SOI discrimination last year, and as of January 1, 2023, housing providers may not deny a housing applicant based their legal form of income, including:

- Housing choice vouchers (formerly Section 8)
- Social security/disability benefits (SSI/SSDI)
- Veteran administration subsidies
- Child support or alimony payments

[Learn more »](#)



[Watch our graphic explainer about SOI discrimination »](#)

Policy Focus

Take Action Now

Stay tuned for our 2023 policy agenda, which includes two key issues you can take action on now:

- **Expanding Eviction Sealing:** Having an eviction filing on your record hampers your ability to find a home, regardless of the outcome of the case. Illinois eviction filings remain in the public record indefinitely, trapping people and families in poverty. [Urge state legislators to expand access to eviction record sealing »](#)
- **Preventing Homeowner Displacement:** Including owner-occupied homes in the Cook County annual tax sale puts people at risk of losing their home solely for delinquent property taxes purchased by investors motivated by profit. Black and Brown homeowners, seniors, and those with disabilities are especially negatively impacted. [Support a law to help families stay in their homes by establishing payment plans »](#)



Lame Duck General Assembly Wrap-Up

Housing Action is excited to celebrate two key wins from the recent lame duck Illinois General Assembly session:

- **Increased funding for the Rental Housing Support Program**, which serves about 2,400 extremely low-income households each year. HB 3878 increases the fee on the recordation of real estate documents from \$10 to \$20 to double the program's funding. Passing this took more than four years of advocacy; thank you to everyone who submitted proponent witness slips, the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund for leading the effort, and chief sponsors Rep. Curtis Tarver and Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas.
- **Allocation of \$75 million in federal funds for housing in Illinois.** HB 969, a supplemental appropriations bill, reallocates some of Illinois' American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) state fiscal recovery funding, providing \$40 million for new permanent supportive housing and emergency shelters; \$20 million for IHDA's Opening Doors homebuyer program; \$7.24 million for employee recruitment and retention for state-funded service providers; \$5 million for the Here to Stay Community Land Trust; and \$3 million for cultural districts. Thank you to Rep. Will Guzzardi for championing this effort, working with allies including Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, and Sen. Ann Gillespie.

Final Federal FY23 Budget

Thanks to all who contacted their members of Congress during the negotiations on the final FY23 federal government budget. The omnibus budget bill, released in December, includes \$61.8 billion for HUD's housing and homelessness programs (\$8.1 billion more than FY22-enacted levels). See the National Low Income Housing Coalition's [full analysis](#).

Housing Counselor Dispatch

Announcing 2023 Trainings

We have a full lineup of trainings to help new and would-be housing counselors gain the fundamental knowledge and skills to help their clients. Register today:

- Housing Counseling Career Path (6 sessions), Jan. 24–26, Jan 31, Feb. 1–2: [Register](#)
- Credit as an Asset, (3 sessions), Feb 7–9: [Register](#)

[See all upcoming trainings »](#)

Relaunch of Opening Doors Homebuyer Assistance Program

Offered through the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the Opening Doors/Abriendo Puertas program is designed to aid lower-income people of color who have historically faced steeper barriers in their path toward homeownership. Eligible participants receive \$6,000 in forgivable assistance for down payment and/or closing costs. The program is reopening now with \$8 million from state Rebuild Illinois capital funds and is expected to assist more than 1,300 potential homebuyers. [Learn more »](#)



AmeriCorps Updates

Apply by **Friday** to Host an AmeriCorps Member

Making a fundraising video for #GivingTuesday. Launching a program that empowers residents to advocate for themselves. Developing workshops to teach homeowners and renters how to save money by being environmentally friendly.

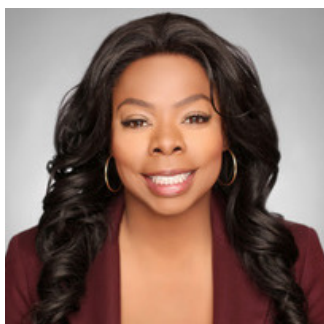
AmeriCorps VISTA Members in Housing Action's network have tackled all of these projects and more. We place both full-year and summer AmeriCorps Members with organizations around the state to work on projects that build their organizations' capacity to fight poverty.

[Email to request a host site application \(due January 27\) »](#)



New Faces at Housing Action

Housing Action is excited to welcome two new Board Members, Paula Bush and Cornell D. Lurry, Sr., and two new staff members, Marissa Diekhoff and Emily Stahl!



Paula Bush is the Executive Director of **North**



Cornell D. Lurry, Sr. serves as a Regional



Marissa Diekhoff is Housing Action's newest



Emily Stahl is joining Housing Action as a

West Housing
Partnership.

Community Development
Relationship Manager
for **Midland States Bank.**

**National Service Program
Associate.**

**Housing Counseling
Training AmeriCorps
VISTA Member.**

Save the Date

7th Annual Toast to Housing Justice

We hope you'll save the date for our upcoming [Toast to Housing Justice](#), our annual spring benefit, which will take place on **April 13, 2023**, at Catalyst Ranch in Chicago from 6:00–9:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase in mid-February.

2023 Housing Matters Conference

We're planning to return to the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois for our 2023 conference, and we hope you'll join us on **October 19-20, 2023!**



Learning & Networking

Events from us, our [members](#), funders, and organizations to which we belong. [Submit your listing »](#)

Hosted by CSH in partnership with IHDA

The **2023 CSH Supportive Housing Institute** will help you jumpstart a supportive housing project through ten sessions held in Mattoon, IL over the course of four months. Applications due 1/20/23: [Learn more](#)



Housing Counseling Career Path (English), starting 1/24: [Register](#)



Credit as an Asset, 2/7–9: [Register](#)

Hosted by Forefront

Fostering A Diverse Donor Base To Enhance Social Impact, 2/7: [Register](#)

[See all upcoming Housing Action events »](#)

What We're Sharing

[Advocates are calling on the state to fund non-congregate hotel room shelters](#), Capitol News Illinois, 12/21/22 ([news](#))

HUD's [Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program](#). Apply by 1/25/23. ([funding opportunity](#))

IHDA's Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) supports qualified homeowners who need help with past-due mortgage payments and related expenses due to financial hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more.](#)

[join an info session, and help homeowners apply by 1/31/23. \(resource\)](#)

[RRF Foundation for Aging](#) supports programs and research that significantly improve the quality of life for older people, and housing is one of their priority areas. LOI deadline 2/1/23. [\(funding opportunity\)](#)

[The Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program](#) provides funds for comprehensive direct legal services to victims in legal matters relating to or arising out of that abuse or violence. Deadline 2/23/23. [\(funding opportunity\)](#)

[The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#) provides funding for projects that address local environmental and public health issues. Deadline 4/10/23. [\(funding opportunity\)](#)

[Health Projects Funded in CO, IA, IL, and OK](#) by the Telligen Community Initiative support innovative and forward-looking health-related projects aimed at improving health, social well-being, and educational attainment. Deadline for social determinants of health projects 6/16/23. [\(funding opportunity\)](#)

Who's Hiring

Jobs from Housing Action, our [members](#), funders, and organizations to which we belong. [Submit your opening »](#)

360 Youth Services, [Transitional Housing Program Case Manager](#)

Bridge Communities, [Intake & Program Assistant](#)

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, [Director of Development](#)

Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis, [Partnership Coordinator](#)

Hesed House, [Case Manager](#)

HOPE Fair Housing, [Staff Attorney](#)

IFF, [Associate Legal Counsel](#)

South Suburban Housing Center, [Housing Counseling Support Specialist](#)

Woodstock Institute, [Communications Associate](#)

Housing Action Illinois is collaborating with the National Housing Resource Center (NHRC) to expand the field of housing counseling, and NHRC has launched a jobs board to match HUD-certified housing counselors and agencies with open positions. [Find or post a housing counseling position at HousingCounselingCareer.org »](#)

We are stronger together. Join us in the fight to create an Illinois where everyone has a good, stable place to call home.

[Become a Member](#)

Donate

Housing Action Illinois

67 E. Madison Street, Suite 1603 | Chicago, Illinois 60603

312-939-6074 | communications@housingactionil.org



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