



# Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home



July 2023 Newsletter: Conference Registration | Housing Counselor Dispatch | Policy Focus | AmeriCorps Updates | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Who's Hiring

## Join Us for 2023 Housing Matters

[Early bird registration](#) has just opened for our annual Housing Matters Conference, which will take place on **October 19–20** in **Bloomington, IL!** Register by August 11 to get the early bird rate and save \$50.

Our conference brings together housing professionals from all over Illinois who are dedicated to reducing homelessness and expanding affordable housing. Join us for two days of workshops, networking, plenary sessions, and our annual membership meeting. At this year's conference, we are excited to be hosting keynote speakers **Marisol Bello** and **Dr. Andre M. Perry**.



[Register now »](#)

## Housing Counselor Dispatch

### Counting All Wins

Kesha Chatman, the Division Operating Officer at Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, found her passion in guiding individuals through the homebuying process and witnessing the broader community impact of housing counseling. Through Housing Action's **Housing Counseling Career Path** training, she met other housing professionals, joined study groups, and prepared for the HUD Certification Exam. As a counselor, Kesha wants to celebrate all her clients' wins, and she encourages anyone interested in housing counseling to attend a Career Path training.

[Read about Kesha's experience »](#)



## Introducing Illinois HFA1

A new program from IHDA Mortgage is now open! The IHDA Mortgage HFA1 will provide a 0% interest 2nd mortgage for \$10,000 in in down payment and a safe, affordable 30-year 1st mortgage with an affordable fixed interest rate. HFA1 is available for all mortgage types.

[Learn more »](#)



## New HUD Logos & Outreach Strategies for Housing Counseling

HUD has launched a marketing campaign called “Let’s Make Home the Goal” to promotes the benefits of housing counseling and position HUD-certified housing counselors as trusted advisors. If you’re at a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, we encourage you to incorporate the newly issued logos into your digital and print materials—and to check out the other materials that might be useful.

[Download materials and logos »](#)



## Policy Focus

**Urge FHFA to Create Renter Protections**

Advocates have a key opportunity to advance a major priority of the HoUsed campaign: strengthening federal renter protections to address the power imbalance between landlords and renters! The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) agreed to consider renter protections as part of the Biden-Harris administration’s Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights and is now accepting public input.

[Add your organization to a letter urging stronger renter protections »](#)



### House Republicans Release FY24 THUD Spending Bill Proposing Deep Cuts to Some HUD Programs but Sparing Most Rental Assistance Programs

The U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Appropriations just released its fiscal year FY2024 draft Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill. The bill proposes funding HUD at \$68.2 billion, a \$6.4 billion (or roughly 10%) increase to HUD programs over previously enacted levels. HUD needs an approximately \$13 billion increase in funding over current levels just to maintain existing assistance. The spending bill proposes deep cuts to or even elimination of some HUD programs but appears—as Housing Action, NLIHC, and our partners urged—to adequately fund most rental assistance programs. For details, see NLIHC’s [full analysis](#) and [updated budget chart](#).

Thanks to all of the advocates who spoke up to protect HUD funding for critical programs.



### AmeriCorps Updates

In June and July, we welcomed 14 AmeriCorps members and 9 host sites to our VISTA Summer Associate program. Our summer AmeriCorps members spend 8-10 weeks on projects that help community organizations grow their services—from youth programs to food distribution, housing counseling, construction, and more!



## Member Spotlight

"People hit a scrape: they get kicked out, they have an eviction, or whatever it is that causes them to be homeless...We make sure they've at least got a roof and some food and then a helping hand to return to a housing option," says PADS Lake County Executive Director Eric Foote. PADS provides shelter to people experiencing homelessness through churches and hotels, and they are currently in the process of developing a fixed site shelter.

[Read about PADS Lake County and our recent advocacy partnership »](#)



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## Thank You to Our Funders

We couldn't do what we do without the generous support of our funders. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of [our sponsors and funders](#) for their unwavering support in our endeavors throughout this year.

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## Learning & Networking

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

*Hosted by Housing Action:*

**Collecting the Missing Data: HUD 9902 Case Studies, 7/27:** [Register](#)

**The Essentials of HUD Data Compliance for Housing Counselors, 7/31-8/4:** [Register](#)

**Member Benefits Orientation, 8/22:** [Register](#)

**Advocacy 101, 8/22:** [Register](#)

*Hosted by Forefront:*

**Government Funding for Nonprofits, 7/25:** [Register](#)

*Hosted by NHS Chicago and Woodstock Institute:*

**Mortgage Access Initiative, 8/1:** [Register](#)

*Hosted by SHPA:*

**Peer Leadership Conference, 8/9-8/10:** [Register](#)

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# What We're Sharing

[The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund Home Repair Program \(HAFHR\)](#) through the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) will provide grants to nonprofits and governmental entities to offer home repair grants for eligible homeowners who have experienced delayed and exacerbated home maintenance needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline 7/31/23 ([funding opportunity](#))

[Dept. of Health and Human Services' Supporting Communities to Reduce Lead Poisoning program](#) will fund approximately 10 local organizations for three years with a goal of helping families avoid the dangers of lead in their homes. Deadline 7/31/23 ([funding opportunity](#))

[The Boone County Community Foundation's](#) grants are available to any not-for-profit or public sector service organizations in Boone County, IL. Grants open 08/01/23. ([funding opportunity](#))

[Policies for Action](#), an initiative of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has issued a call for proposals to build the evidence base investigating how preemption policies at the state level may affect racial justice and health equity. Deadline 8/10/2023 ([funding opportunity](#))

[Where are most vacant homes in St. Clair County and what can communities do about it?](#), Belleville News-Democrat, 6/29/23 ([news](#))

[Debt ceiling deal could mean fewer Housing Choice Vouchers to go around, advocate warns](#), WCBU, 6/20/23 ([news](#))

[Affordable rental housing is out of reach for millions of low-wage workers](#), WBEZ's Reset with Sasha-Ann Simons, 6/16/23 ([news](#))

[What does it take to afford a 2-bedroom rental in Chicago? New report finds wages still lagging](#), Chicago Tribune, 6/14/23 ([news](#))

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# Who's Hiring

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

Chicago Lawyers' Committee, [Fair Housing Program Associate](#)

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, [Bilingual Success & Stability Program Case Manager](#)

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, [Associate Director of Organizing & Strategic Campaigns](#); [Senior Field Organizer](#)

Cinnaire, [Fund Manager](#), [Asset Management](#); [Loan Underwriter](#), [Community Facilities](#)

Center for Changing Lives, [Outreach & Community Engagement Coordinator](#); [Bilingual Housing & Financial Coach](#)

CSH, [NMTC Portfolio Manager](#); [Senior Program Manager](#), [Federal Technical Assistance Team](#)

Habitat Chicago, [AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader](#); [Social Media Coordinator](#)

Thresholds, [Mental Health Services](#)

The Journey Forward, [HUD Certified Housing Counselor](#)

Northwest Center, [Executive Director](#)

**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**

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