



March 2022 Newsletter: Annual Benefit | Source of Income Discrimination | Policy Focus | Mortgage Assistance | Housing Counselor Dispatch | AmeriCorps Updates | Member Spotlight | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Jobs

This month in...

2002: The first Community Housing Developer's Institute (CHDI) kicked off. This was a one-year certificate program on rental housing development for staff of community-based organizations run in partnership with the Illinois Action Development Corporation.

Help Us Celebrate 35 Years of Housing Action

Our 6th Annual Toast to Housing Justice is almost here—our virtual benefit storefront will launch on Monday, April 4. Stay tuned for more details and get ready to snag benefit offerings ranging from gym memberships to guitar lessons.

In the meantime, **we hope that you'll consider making a contribution or becoming a monthly donor.** Your support strengthens the movements to expand and protect affordable housing. Together, we can continue working to secure critical investments and equitable policy changes—and create an Illinois where everyone has a good, affordable place to call home.

Donate



What is Source of Income Discrimination?

People seeking rental housing in Illinois are regularly denied the opportunity to even apply for available housing opportunities simply because landlords or property management companies choose not to accept their legal form of payment. This is known as source of income (SOI) discrimination.

Housing Action Illinois is committed to furthering fair housing, both through advocacy and education. We have created a short, informative video for those who want to learn more about SOI discrimination. This video explains what

source of income discrimination is, how it affects Illinois residents, and how state legislation can be strengthened to expand existing SOI discrimination laws.

[Watch our graphic explainer to learn more »](#)



Policy Focus

General Assembly to Adjourn Early, Action Needed

The Illinois General Assembly has announced an early end date for this year's session: state legislators will adjourn on April 8. This means we only have a couple of weeks to secure legislative wins. Before they adjourn, we are urging legislators to:

- **Pass Source of Income Housing Protections:** Our proposed legislation, HB 2775, will strengthen existing local SOI discrimination laws and protect every resident in Illinois communities. The amended bill provides the opportunity for individuals and families currently shut out of housing opportunities to make their case to a landlord that they will be a good tenant. [Urge legislators to act now »](#)
- **Dedicate Significant Federal Funds to Create Affordable Housing & End Homelessness:** Legislators are making decisions about how to spend remaining federal fiscal recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. [Add your name to endorse \\$855 million for Illinois at Home »](#)
- **Increase State Investment in Homeless services in the FY23 budget:** The governor's proposed FY23 budget reduces the FY22 \$25 million line item for COVID-19 eviction mitigation programs to \$10 million. With partners, we are advocating that the \$15 million reduction be reallocated as a down payment on needed investments to end homelessness, along with \$5 million in new funding. [Learn more »](#)

Federal Advocacy Success: Congress Increases Funding for Housing

Last week, federal House and Senate leaders announced a final fiscal year 2022 spending bill that provides HUD programs with \$53.7 billion, which is \$4 billion above FY21 enacted levels. It includes \$200 million to expand rental assistance vouchers to an additional 25,000 households, including individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence and veterans. [Learn more »](#)



Statewide Mortgage Assistance Coming in April

This April, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) will begin accepting applications for the Illinois Emergency Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF). ILHAF is intended to assist Illinois homeowners who have struggled to pay their mortgage due to COVID-19. Homeowners can apply for receive grants up to \$30,000 to eliminate or reduce past-due mortgages and property tax payments.

Interested applicants should [check their eligibility and attend an information session](#) held by IHDA to learn what to do to be ready to apply.



Housing Counselor Dispatch

Announcing 2022 Trainings

This year, after receiving a HUD Training Award to bring national trainings for housing counselors, we look forward to offering a robust lineup of virtual learning opportunities. Registration is now open for our March and April trainings, all which you can find listed on our [trainings calendar](#). We update our calendar regularly, so make sure to check in periodically to learn about which trainings we are offering each month.

Join us **next week** on March 22 from 1:00 pm–3:00 pm CT for **Basic Alternatives to Foreclosure: The Decision Tree**. Learn about the options available to homeowners who are facing foreclosure and what programs exist to assist homeowners through the process. [Register now »](#)



AmeriCorps Updates

Apply to Become an AmeriCorps Member

Are you interested in making a difference in your community while gaining professional experience with a nonprofit? Each year, Housing Action matches AmeriCorps members with community-based organizations across Illinois. AmeriCorps members take on a variety of roles at their host organizations, all aimed at helping our communities thrive. They expand the scale of programs and

services, implement new projects, and build capacity to further the long-term sustainability of anti-poverty programs at their host organizations.

AmeriCorps members serve full-time at their host organizations. Their terms of service last 12 months (for full-year members), or 8 to 10 weeks (for Summer Associates, who serve between June and August).

[Learn more and apply today »](#)



Apply to Host a Summer Associate

Housing Action has extended our deadline and is still accepting applications from organizations interested in hosting AmeriCorps positions over the summer. Summer Associates serve for 8 to 10 weeks and can assist your organization with both indirect and direct service projects. They may focus on helping your organization build the capacity to advance its mission in new ways, implement pilot projects and new programs, and grow existing services and programs.

Please email vista@housingactionil.org to request an application.

Member Spotlight: Territory

“Territory primarily focuses on creating mentorship and career pathways for young people who don’t have as many opportunities just because of the neighborhood they’re from,” says Xoxhitl Hubbell-Fox, AmeriCorps VISTA at Territory.

Territory is a nonprofit organization that strives to provide place-based urban design opportunities for young people to build better futures for themselves and their communities. Through their design programs and projects, Territory hopes to empower young people to understand their own agency and the ways in which they can have a positive impact on their community.

[Read more about their work »](#)



Save the Date: Housing Matters 2022

We're planning to return to an in-person gathering for our 2022 Housing Matters Conference! Join us on **October 20 & 21** at the **DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois.**

We're excited to celebrate our 35th Anniversary at the conference, and we're looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces as we toast to our accomplishments and renew our commitment to build a better future for all Illinois communities.



Learning & Networking

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

Hosted by National Low Income Housing Coalition

Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice, 3/22 & 3/23: [Register](#)

Hosted by Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA)

Illinois Framework for the Illinois State Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness, 3/18: [Join](#)

Hosted by Illinois Housing Council

2022 Illinois Affordable Housing Forum, 3/22-3/24 & 3/31: [Register](#)



Basic Alternatives to Foreclosure: The Decision Tree, 3/22: [Register](#)



Triaging for New Counselors & Intake Specialists, 3/29-3/30: [Register](#)



The Ins & Outs of Mortgage Loan Modifications, 3/31: [Register](#)

Hosted by HOPE Fair Housing Center

2022 HOPE Annual Virtual Conference: Appraising the Future of Fair Housing, 4/14: [Register](#)

[See all Housing Action events »](#)

What We're Sharing

The announcement of [Community Advisory Council members](#) for Illinois' Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, many of whom are with Housing Action Illinois member organizat

The City of Chicago and community partners have released [Chicago's Blueprint for Fair Housing](#), which sets forth eight goals with complementary strategies and actions to advance fair housing in Chicago. [\(report\)](#)

[FIRSTHAND: Segregation](#), WTTW [\(news\)](#)

[VIVA Chicago!](#) held a virtual conversation addressing the ongoing crisis of lead contamination and its interconnected relationship to health, housing, and environment in the greater Chicago area. [\(video\)](#)

[The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute: Social Justice Fund](#) is offering awards of up to \$5,000 to support grassroots organizations with incomes under \$500,000 in their efforts to attain racial, ethnic, and gender equality. Apply by 4/11/22. [\(funding opportunity\)](#)

Who's Hiring

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

Apna Ghar, [Finance Coordinator](#)

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, [Public Benefits Specialist](#) & [Staff Attorney](#)

Chinese American Service League, [Housing Counselor](#)

Community Partners for Affordable Housing, [Various Positions](#)

Greater Southwest Development Corporation, [HUD Certified Counselor](#)

Habitat for Humanity Chicago, [Programs Director](#)

IFF, [Various Positions](#)

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

LUCHA, [Director of Finance](#) & [Maintenance Technician](#)

National Community Reinvestment Coalition, [Racial Economic Equity Coordinator](#)

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, [Various Positions](#)

Northwest Center, [Housing Counseling Program Manager](#)

NW HomeStart, [Executive Director](#)

Oak Park Regional Housing Center, [Housing Specialist — Intake Coordinator](#)

Open Communities, [Case Manager/HUD-Certified Housing Counselor](#) & [Bilingual Client Intake Specialist](#)

Phoenix Community Development Services, [Various Positions](#)

South Suburban Housing Center, [Housing Counselor Program Manager](#) & [Housing Counselor](#)

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

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