



# Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home



March 2024 Newsletter: Annual Benefit | Policy Focus | Housing Counselor Dispatch | AmeriCorps Updates | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Jobs | Membe

## Toast to Housing Justice on April 18

This Fair Housing Month, we hope you'll join us to raise your glass at our annual [Toast to Housing Justice](#). We're planning a fun, relaxed evening with pizza, beer provided by Revolution Brewing, music, friendly faces—and a chance to get great items at our silent auction. Best of all, by attending, you'll support our work toward an Illinois where everyone has a good, affordable place to call home.

**Catalyst Ranch | Chicago, IL**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2024**  
**6:00–8:00 PM**

[Get your tickets today!](#)



## Policy Focus

### Housing Action's 2024 Policy Agenda

Each year, Housing Action Illinois works on a broad range of issues aligned with our core mission of creating an Illinois where everyone has a good, affordable place to call home. Below are some of our priorities for the 2024 Illinois General Assembly session, as well as work implementing some of our previous successes. These are all measures that we believe will help families and communities across Illinois to thrive.

[Read the agenda here »](#)



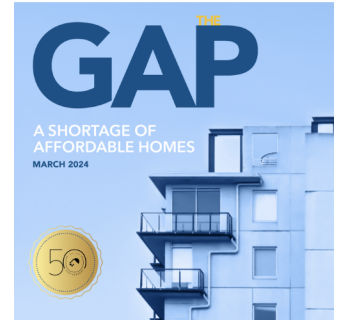
## Community Safety Through Stable Homes Act Coalition Update

"Crime-free housing and nuisance property" ordinances (CFNOs) disproportionately penalize renters and housing providers, resulting in unjust evictions, discriminatory practices, and endangerment of vulnerable community members such as survivors of domestic violence and individuals with mental illness. We are working with a coalition to create the Community Safety through Stable Homes Act to prevent discrimination and displacement, help people contact emergency services without fear, and put the focus on better responses to crime.

[Read more and endorse our campaign here »](#)

## Report Shows Extreme Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes in Illinois

*The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*, a report released each year in Illinois by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and Housing Action Illinois, finds only 36 affordable, available rental homes per 100 extremely low-income renter households in Illinois. [Read more »](#)



## Final FY24 HUD Budget Has Crucial Increases But Also Harmful Cuts

Thanks to everyone who took action to advocate significant increases for many of HUD's programs, especially the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which will be able to renew all vouchers and expand rental assistance to an additional 3,000 households. We were also very pleased with the amount of funding provided for the Homeless Assistance Grants program at a time when the number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing. Unfortunately, there were also cuts for important programs, such as HOME Investment Partnerships, and flat funding for others, such as housing counseling and fair housing. [Read more »](#)

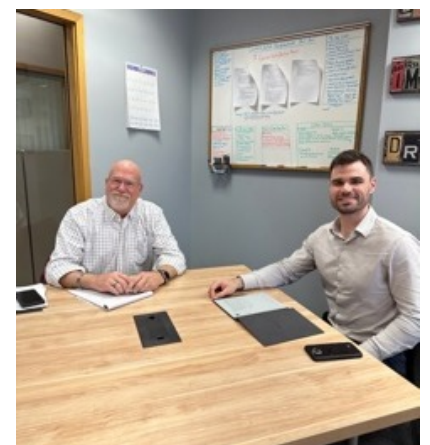
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# Housing Counselor Dispatch

## New Partnerships Pave the Way for Future Homeowners in Decatur

Community Investment Corporation of Decatur (CICD) has been working with Housing Action's Capacity Building team on an initiative to create more affordable homes by rehabbing city-owned properties in Decatur, IL. Read about how CICD plans on creating new pathways to homeownership through increasing the supply of housing and creating a homebuyer education program in our latest Member Spotlight blog post.

[Read it here »](#)



## Last Chance: Register for our Upcoming Trainings

This spring, we are offering trainings on fair housing rights. We believe everyone deserves a safe and stable home—join us to learn about housing rights and how you can best serve your clients.

Join us for a 3-day training series on **Fair Housing on March 26–28** and learn more about fair housing requirements, identifying potential fair housing violations, filing discrimination complaints, and more. [Register here »](#)

Attend our 4-day **training series on the fair housing rights for survivors of violence starting April 1**. Dive deeper into fair housing rights within this context, filing discrimination complaints, and how you can provide crucial support to your clients. [Register here »](#)

Scholarships are available for both of these trainings. [Please apply for scholarships here »](#)

## AmeriCorps Updates

### Willie Promoted to National Service Director

We are pleased to announce that Willie Heineke has been promoted to Housing Action's National Service Director. Willie is doing a great job leading our AmeriCorps program and supporting a strong VISTA Team, and has developed and is implementing a vision for our AmeriCorps program, which advances our strategic priorities, supports our members, and benefits communities throughout IL and the nation. His and his team's work is reflected in a number of important metrics, including the number of organizations engaged, the number of VISTA members recruited and retained, and member placement and satisfaction post-service.



### Celebrating Our Movement During AmeriCorps Week

March 10-16 was AmeriCorps Week, where we recognized our accomplishments and thanked the generations of AmeriCorps members and alumni in our network. We are proud of the 350+ AmeriCorps members who have served with our coalition since 2010 and are excited to continue our movement of national service and housing justice!

On Thursday, March 14, we hosted a social event for AmeriCorps members serving in the Chicago area. Members from our program, as well as other AmeriCorps networks, gathered for an afternoon of networking and community building. We want to extend a huge #AmeriThanks to all who attended this event!



*Know someone who should be an AmeriCorps member in our network? We're accepting [early bird applications](#) for 2024-2025 AmeriCorps members.*

### AmeriCorps Alumni Associate Board

Recently, an affordable housing conference brought together four generations of AmeriCorps alumni. Read one alumni's journey after service and [learn about the launch of our AmeriCorps Alumni Associate Board »](#)



# Learning & Networking

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

 Fair Housing Series, 3/26–3/28: [Scholarships available!](#) [Register](#)

 SafeHousing: Addressing Violence Against Women, 4/1, 4/3, 4/8, & 4/10: [Scholarships available!](#) [Register](#)

 Counseling 101 for New Owners Post-Purchase , 4/4, 4/11, & 4/18: [Register](#)

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

HOPE Fair Housing Source of Income Training, 3/22, *In-Person: Champaign, IL*: [Register](#)

# What We're Sharing

Cook County [property tax exemption application](#) now available ([resource](#))

IDHR released [FAQ page](#) on Source of Income discrimination ([resource](#))

[MISMO Standards and Housing Counseling](#) informational video ([resource](#))

# Who's Hiring

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

Woodstock, [Advocacy Associate](#)

Access living, [Multiple Positions](#)

Thresholds, [Multiple Positions](#)

# Member Shoutouts

Highlighting some of the good work [our members](#) are doing.

[Cornerstone Community Outreach \(CCO\)](#) is the lead agency in the Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Neighborhood Network, in conjunction with United Way, Nicor Gas and Cook County. CCO provides shelter and other services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, from feeding seniors and the homeless to training individuals in lead-based paint abatement certification.

**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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