



# Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home

May 2023 Newsletter: AmeriCorps Updates | Policy Focus | Housing Counselor Dispatch | Benefit Update |  
Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Jobs

## AmeriCorps Updates

### Know someone who wants to make a difference?

Ask if they've heard of AmeriCorps.

We're looking for dedicated individuals to join our AmeriCorps network and serve with organizations across Illinois (and beyond). AmeriCorps members spend a year or summer helping organizations expand their services while learning new skills, earning money for school, and growing a network of professional connections.

We're looking for people like Ezella. **"I'm the person I needed years ago,"** reflects Ezella, who is helping Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing offer more services to residents in Northern IL. During her year of service as an Eviction Prevention VISTA, she is learning just as much about herself as she is about community resources. [Read about Ezella's AmeriCorps project »](#)

Positions in our network will begin between June and August 2023.

[View summer & full-year positions »](#)



## Policy Focus

### Spring into Action to Tell Congress #CutsHurt

President Biden and congressional leaders are continuing negotiations to raise the nation's debt ceiling. The nation could default on its debt as soon as June 1 if they do not reach an agreement. Despite the likely harm posed by a default,

House Republicans say they will only lift the debt ceiling in exchange for steep cuts to domestic programs—including drastic cuts to HUD’s and USDA’s vital affordable housing and homelessness programs, which could reduce funding to these programs by as much as 22%.

We’re joining the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s #CutsHurt campaign to oppose these harmful cuts. Three ways you can join in:

- [Email, call, or tweet](#) your members of Congress
- [Add your organization](#) to a national budget letter
- Post your work on social media using the hashtag #CutsHurt and tag your members of Congress, @HousingActionIL, and @NLIHC

### Meeting with Legislators for Federal Lobby Days

In March, we joined the National Low Income Housing Coalition and others for a lobby day in D.C. to discuss opposing cuts to housing in federal spending bills and increasing support for critical resources to prevent homelessness and expand affordable housing. In April, we worked with our Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign partners to hold additional meetings with Congressional staffers on these same issues.

### IL CRA Update

Thank you to the 77 signatories from across the state who signed on to our IL CRA Coalition comment letter on the state’s proposed rules to implement the new IL Community Reinvestment Act (IL CRA). Please visit the [IL CRA Coalition webpage](#) to view this letter and find other materials and resources regarding our state and federal CRA policy efforts.

### 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 34 affordable, available rental homes per 100 extremely low-income renter households in Illinois. [Read more »](#)



*Thanks to Representative Bill Foster and staffers for Representatives Casten and Scheider for meeting with Housing Action staff & fellow advocates during #NLIHCforum23 lobby day*

## Housing Counselor Dispatch

### New Trainings

In the next couple of weeks, we’re bringing a number of training opportunities for the very first time. We hope you’ll join us!

- Foreclosure 101, 5/23–24: [Register](#)
- Ayudar a los clientes con deudas | Helping Clients with Debt (Spanish), 6/1: [Register](#)
- Creating a Results-Driven Financial Coaching Program, 6/6–8: [Register](#)

### Uplifting the Community: HANA Center

Many people who come to HANA Center in need of housing assistance know there are programs that could help, but don't know specifics or how to apply. HANA Center currently offers all their forms in English, Spanish, and Korean in an effort to make vital information more accessible. Without translated housing program materials, clients “couldn't know the details about the program. That's how we came to know that there was a huge barrier to information access, and we developed our program from there,” says Jeonghwa Yi Boyle, Citizenship, Immigration, Legal & Housing Services Director.

[Learn more about HANA Center's housing counseling program »](#)



The HANA Center Housing Team

## Thank You for a Successful Toast to Housing Justice!

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past April as we returned to an in-person benefit. Our 7th Annual Toast to Housing Justice exceeded our fundraising goal, bringing in nearly \$13,000 to support our work to expand affordable housing and end homelessness in Illinois!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success.



## Learning & Networking

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

Hosted by Community Investment Corporation

Annual Neighborhood Forum at Malcolm X College, 5/23: [Register](#)

 [Foreclosure 101, 5/23–24: Register](#)

 [ComDev Coffee Hour, 5/23](#): Member organizations only

 [Ayudar a los clientes con deudas | Helping Clients with Debt \(Spanish\), 6/1: Register](#)

Hosted by Illinois Housing Council

IHC Summer Mixer, 6/1: [Register](#)

 [Creating a Results-Driven Financial Coaching Program, 6/6–8: Register](#)

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

## What We're Sharing

**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 and help homeowners apply.](#) (resource)

[IHDA's Strong Communities Program](#) provides grant funds to municipalities, counties, and land banks to address affordable housing needs and community revitalization efforts. Deadline 6/1/23. (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)

[Community Organizing in the Midwest](#) by the Needmor Fund seeks to support groups that organize primarily low- and moderate-income people and have a multi-issue agenda that reflects an intersectional approach, including race, economic justice, and more. Deadline 6/30/23. (funding opportunity)

[Cook County's property tax system needs reform. Here's how to fix it.](#), Chicago Sun-Times, 4/19/23

[HUD Training Partners in Action: Housing Action Illinois](#), Housing Counseling Today, 4/13/23

[The rent is still too high for many Peorians to afford](#), WCBU, 3/28/23

[Closing the affordable housing gap in Illinois](#), WBEZ's Reset with Sasha-Ann Simons, 3/23/23

## Who's Hiring

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

Association for Individual Development, [Various](#)

Center for Changing Lives, [Bilingual Housing & Financial Coach](#) & [Bilingual Employment Coach](#)

Centro Romero, [Public Benefits Case Manager](#) & [Outreach Coordinator](#)

Habitat Chicago, [Partnerships Specialist](#) & [Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator](#)

Housing Forward, [Director of Development](#) & [Interim Housing Case Manager](#)

NACEDA, [People and Places Advocacy Director](#)

Mano a Mano, [Housing Assistance Case Manager](#)

People's Resource Center, [Intake Coordinator](#)

Share Our Spare, [Program Coordinator](#) & [Development Associate](#)

Second Federal FCU, [Branch Manager - South Gate, Milwaukee, WI](#) & [Branch Manager II - Oak Park, IL](#)

South Suburban PADS, [Housing Specialist](#) & [Housing Case Manager](#)

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, [Various](#)

Will County Habitat for Humanity, [Neighborhood Revitalization Specialist](#)

*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

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