



Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home



November 2023 Newsletter: 2023 Housing Matters | National Recognition | CRA Updates | Policy Focus | Housing Counselor Dispatch | AmeriCorps Updates | Giving Tuesday | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Who's Hiring

2023 Housing Matters: Our Largest Conference Yet

This year, we were excited to welcome **346 participants from 168 different organizations** to our conference, making this far and away the largest conference we've hosted yet!

Attendees joined us in Bloomington, IL for two days to dig into issues updates, hear from experts, and build relationships. We kicked off with opening keynote speaker Marisol Bello and ended on a highnote with closing keynote speaker Dr. Andre M. Perry, and in between, we facilitated 16 breakout workshops, hand printed tote bags with artist William Estrada, and held a reception with live jazz and a moment of recognition for our AmeriCorps network. **Thank you to speakers, sponsors, and attendees who helped make the conference a success!**

[View presentation materials and browse photos »](#)



Housing Action's Executive Director Receives National Award

Housing and community development association leaders from across the country recently presented their top leadership award, the **Diane Sterner Award for Community Development Association Leadership**, to Sharon Legenza, our Executive Director. Thanks to the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) for recognizing Sharon's dedication and leadership! She has led Housing Action for 15 years, mobilizing organizations across the state to work together to end homelessness, address the shortage of affordable rental housing, and expand homeownership opportunities.

[Read more »](#)



Paige Carlson-Heim of TD Bank and Sharon Legenza of Housing Action

Final Federal CRA Rules Announced

For the first time in 28 years, on October 24, federal bank regulatory agencies jointly issued a **[final rule](#)** to significantly strengthen and modernize regulations implementing the Federal Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). As the co-convenor of the Illinois CRA Coalition, we are working with our partners to analyze and understand how to make use of the provisions that will most positively impact inequities in mortgage and small business lending.



The Illinois CRA Coalition is also reviewing and responding to state-level Illinois CRA rules; the Joint Committee on Administrative Rulemaking (JCAR) must take action on the proposed rules by December 16 for final implementation to take place.

[Learn more »](#)

Policy Focus

Federal Government Shutdown Looming Again

Congress has until November 17 to approve final spending bills or face another government shutdown. The road to enacting a final FY24 spending bill with sufficient HUD funding is steep. For example, neither the House nor Senate bill provides sufficient funding to renew all existing Housing Choice Vouchers. Under the Senate proposal, as many as 6,000 fewer households would receive needed assistance, and under the House funding level, roughly 40,000 fewer households would receive assistance. [Housing Action is joining NLIHC in encouraging Illinoisans to contact legislators](#) to urge them to expand—not cut—investments in affordable, accessible homes through the FY24 spending bill.



We Support a Welcoming Illinois

Housing Action Illinois supports the Welcome to Illinois Coalition, which is working to encourage a robust and coordinated response from the federal, state, and local level to ensure that immigrants and asylum seekers thrive in Chicago and Illinois. Find out more about the coalition, including volunteer and donation opportunities, [here »](#)

Bring Chicago Home Referendum Gets on March Ballot

On November 7, the [Bring Chicago Home](#) campaign passed a huge milestone: the Chicago City Council voted to put a referendum on the March 19 election ballot to create a new revenue stream legally dedicated to providing permanent affordable housing with wraparound supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. We encourage Chicago voters to vote **YES** on the question! As an endorser, we congratulate the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and everyone else working on the campaign.

New Chief Homelessness Officer of Chicago Position Created

Mayor Brandon Johnson recently [signed an executive order](#) to create a Chief Homelessness Officer of Chicago position, a senior role within the Mayor's Office. The goal of this position is to address homelessness in Chicago.

Housing Counselor Dispatch

Changing with the Times: Cora Fulmore's Approach to Training Counselors

Cora Fulmore, founder of the Diversified Resource Network, has 30+ years of experience in the housing counseling industry. Cora is committed to providing up-to-date information to housing counselors and has partnered with Housing Action to bring more than 10 trainings. We spoke with her about how she got started, how she keeps her trainings relevant, and what she sees for the future of the field.

[Read our interview with Cora here »](#)



Housing Action's Bibian Cristino and Emily Stahl and DRN's Cora Fulmore

AmeriCorps Updates

AmeriCorps Cohort Joins Housing Matters Conference

For the first time in program history, we welcomed 30 AmeriCorps members at our annual conference! Whether they traveled from Maywood or Macomb—or as far as Tuscon, AZ—our AmeriCorps cohort came together for two days of learning and networking in Bloomington, IL.

Become an AmeriCorps Host Site

[Early bird applications](#) to host 2024-2025 AmeriCorps members are now open! Curious about our AmeriCorps network and the application process? Join one of our upcoming webinars:



Spanish Coalition for Housing's Audrey Carberry and Housing Action's Marissa Diekhoff

- **How to Host Housing Counseling Corps Members** | December 7, 12:00-1:00 pm CT | [Register »](#)
 - *Brought in partnership with the National Housing Resource Center (NHRC)*
- **How to Host AmeriCorps Members** | December 14, 1:30-2:30 pm CT | [Register »](#)
- **Writing Strong Host Site Applications** | January 11, 1:30-2:30 pm CT | [Register »](#)

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is coming up! Join us in moving the needle on affordable housing during this giving season. Your donation will help us create an Illinois where everyone has a good, stable home.

We want to make sure you have the progress updates you need to confidently support our work with trust and confidence, and we're happy to share that we've earned a Platinum Seal with Candid for our transparency.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

[Donate Today!](#)

Learning & Networking

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

Hosted by Housing Action:

Powerful Tools on Financial Coaching | 11/16, 1:00–3:00pm | [Register »](#)

Providing Assistance to Homeowners Facing Foreclosure | 12/5, 1:00–2:30pm | [Register »](#)

How to Host Housing Counseling Corps Members | 12/7, 12:00–1:00pm | [Register »](#)

Best Practices for Housing Counseling Intake | 12/7, 1:00–2:30pm | [Register »](#)

Lunch & Learn: Energy Efficiency Programs for Homeowners, Renters, & Building Owners | 12/12, 12:00–1:00pm | [Register »](#)

How to Host AmeriCorps Members | 12/14, 1:30–2:30pm | [Register »](#)

Hosted by Our Members:

Advocacy 101 for Nonprofits - Forefront | 11/16, 9:30–11:00am CT | [Register »](#)

Fight or Flight: Responding to this Racial Equity Moment (In-Person) - Metropolitan Planning Council | 11/28, 3:00–5:00pm CT | [Register »](#)

What We're Sharing

Housing Action Policy Director Bob Palmer recently appeared on [WBEZ's Reset](#) to discuss Chicago's housing crisis, how Chicago's housing system has evolved over the years, and possible solutions.

IHC's application for host companies for the [Emerging Leaders Internship \(ELI\) program](#), a 10-week paid internship whose goal is to increase racial and gender diversity in the affordable housing industry. Application deadline 11/17.

The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing recently released a [Source of Income \(SOI\) self-advocacy toolkit](#) designed to help renters, homebuyers, and landlords understand the recent amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act that designates source of income as a protected class.

North Shore [Exchange Grants](#) will award grants up to \$100,000 to nonprofits that provide human services and education to children and families in the Chicagoland area living below the poverty line. Deadline 1/19.

CSH's [Housing Industry Survey](#) for supportive housing service provider, property managers, developers, or owners to share their opinions to address operational hurdles in supportive housing.

IHDA & LISC's [Next Generation \(Next Gen\) Capacity Building Initiative](#), designed to expand the talent pipeline and increase diversity within the housing development field and related industries. Deadline 12/1.

IDHS's [Healing Illinois Grant](#) is designed to support organizations across the state to begin, or continue, the work of racial healing. Info session on 11/20, deadline 12/1.

Who's Hiring

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

Access Living – [Multiple opportunities](#)

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

Chicago Lawyer's Committee – [Director of Development and Foundation Relations](#)

Chicago Furniture Bank – [Chief Development Officer; Head of Strategy & Business Development](#)

HOPE Fair Housing - [Outreach Coordinator](#)

Latino Policy Forum – [Director of Development; Development Coordinator](#)

National Low Income Housing Coalition – [Housing Campaign Coordinator](#)

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic – [Staff Attorney](#)

Northside Community Resources – [Fair Housing Legal Assistant/Paralegal](#)

Open Communities – [Fair Housing Associate](#)

South Suburban Housing Center - [Fair Housing Specialist](#)

Never Miss a Newsletter!

Did you know that you can find copies of our previous newsletters from this year and last year on our website? To access previous copies, [visit our latest updates page »](#)

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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