



Housing Action Illinois

A stronger Illinois begins at home



September 2023 Newsletter: Annual Report | Housing Matters Conference | Housing Counselor Dispatch | Policy Focus | AmeriCorps Updates | Learning & Networking | What We're Sharing | Who's Hiring | Thank You to Funders

2022 Annual Report: Building Momentum

2022 was a year of building and celebrating momentum at Housing Action: We marked our 35th anniversary of leading the movement to expand affordable housing and end homelessness in Illinois. We reaffirmed our mission, values, and vision and emerged with a fresh strategic plan detailing our priorities, pillars of work, and the lenses we apply as we carry out our programs. Learn about these strategic pillars and key programmatic accomplishments from last year in our newly released annual report.

[View the report »](#)



2023 Housing Matters Sold Out

Our [annual Housing Matters Conference](#) is coming up on **October 19 & 20!** We are excited to welcome keynote speakers Marisol Bello and Dr. Andre M. Perry and to host 16 different breakout workshops on critical topics related to affordable housing and ending homelessness. [View the full conference schedule »](#)

We have reached capacity for our conference, but you can [join our waitlist here »](#)



Housing Counselor Dispatch

Announcing the Release of CMS Guide 3.0

Last week, we launched an updated edition of our CMS Guide to HUD-Approved Client Management Systems. This digital resource is available for free online and aims to help housing counselors assess their HUD-approved CMS options through an at-a-glance comparison chart and detailed individual system profiles.

[Learn more »](#)



IHDA Program Updates

Opening Doors is back! Opening Doors is a lending program which provides financial assistance for homebuyers. The goal of Opening Doors is to provide an opportunity for Illinois families to break the cycle of renting and achieve a path to homeownership. [Learn more »](#)

The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund will be closing soon. ILHAF provides up to \$60,000 per household in mortgage assistance to eligible homeowners—paid directly to the servicer, taxing body or other approved entity. The program is accepting applications until October 31. [Learn more »](#)



[Learn more »](#)



Policy Focus

HOME Illinois Bill Signed by Governor

On July 26, Governor JB Pritzker signed [HB 2831](#), codifying into state law Governor Pritzker's executive order creating the the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness. The signing of this bill—which also makes the [Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), led by the State Homelessness Chief Officer, in the Illinois Department of Human Services permanent—is a crucial step towards achieving functional zero homelessness in Illinois.

Federal Funding Update

Members of Congress have until September 30 to reach an [agreement on the federal budget](#) or a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. We support the Senate version of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, which would provide an \$8.26 billion (roughly 13%) increase to HUD's budget over this year's levels. We are strongly opposed to House Republican proposals to significantly cut funding for federal programs that meet the housing needs of people with the lowest incomes. Housing Action is joining the National Low Income Housing Coalition in encouraging Illinoisans to [contact legislators](#) to urge them fund housing and homelessness programs at the highest level possible.



AmeriCorps Updates

Welcoming Our New Cohort

This August, we placed 40 full-year AmeriCorps Members with our member organizations—the largest cohort of full-year AmeriCorps Members we've had yet! Another new step for our program: we have placed Housing Counseling Corps members in

both Illinois and six other states nationwide.

9/11 Day of Service

Our AmeriCorps network participated in various volunteer projects as part of the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. Our AmeriCorps members volunteered at many different locations throughout Illinois and other states, including the Chicago Furniture Bank.

Read about our 9/11 Day of Service in our [latest blog post »](#)



Learning & Networking

Mare Ralph, Housing Policy Organizer at Housing Action Illinois, will be presenting along with the CAFHA at [Illinois Municipal League's annual conference](#) on September 23. Be sure to catch Mare's presentation on "Local Strategies to Promote Affordable and Fair Housing" if you're attending!

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

Hosted by Housing Action:

Housing Counseling Career Path | 9/26–28, 1:00–5:00pm CT | [Register »](#)

Communications & Development Coffee Hour | 9/26, 10:00–11:00am CT | [Member event; request an invite »](#)

Helping Clients Avoid Eviction | 10/5, 1:00–3:00pm CT | [Register »](#)

Hosted by Our Members:

Introduction to Library Resources - Forefront | 9/27, 10:00–11:00am CT (In-Person) | [Register »](#)

Policy Matters—Affordable Housing - Project Now | 9/26, 9:00–11:00am CT (In-Person) | [Register »](#)

HOPE Fair Housing Training | 10/4, 10:00am–12:00pm CT (Online or In-Person) | [Register »](#)

What We're Sharing

A recently released [mortgage appraisal report](#) from NHS of Chicago and Woodstock Institute details policy solutions for addressing racial disparities in mortgage lending and address the racial homeownership gap. This report is Phase 1 of their Mortgage Access Initiative.

[T-Mobile's Hometown Grants](#) is investing \$25M in 500 rural towns over 5 years to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities. Elected officials, town managers/employees, tribal leaders, or nonprofit community leaders from small towns with population less than 50,000 can apply. Four deadlines each year, running through 2026.

RFF Foundation for Aging's [Direct Service Grants](#) provide funding to new or existing direct service programs that intentionally focus on persons aged 60 and older. Three deadlines each year, with funding decisions in May, August, and November.

The [Illinois State Treasurer Charitable Trust Grant](#) provides funding to small nonprofits in food programs, economic development, and housing. There are two grant cycles—Fall 2023 and Spring 2024—with deadlines on September 30 and May 31, respectively.

Who's Hiring

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

Access Living: [Senior Attorney](#)

Community Partners for Affordable Housing: [Bilingual Intake Coordinator](#)

Communities United: [Housing and Outreach Coordinator](#)

Garfield Park Community Council: [Development Manager](#)

Habitat Chicago: [Corporate Relations Specialist; Salesforce, Systems, and IT Manager](#)

LCBH: [Grants Finance Manager](#), [Housing Attorney](#)

Northwest Center: [Youth Coordinator](#), [Director of Development](#)

Metropolitan Planning Council: [Development Director](#)

North Suburban Legal Aid: [Housing Community Navigator/Outreach Coordinator](#)

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.

AmeriCorps • Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen • Associated Bank • The Chicago Community Trust • Cinnaire • Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago • Fifth Third Chicagoland Foundation • Freddie Mac • Harris Family Foundation • Huntington Bank Foundation • Energy Foundation in partnership with the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition • JPMorgan Chase • Midland States Bank • National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations • National Low Income Housing Coalition • National Housing Resource Center • NeighborWorks America • Old National Bank • PNC Foundation • Polk Bros. Foundation • Regions Bank • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation • Second Federal / Self-Help Federal Credit Union • U.S. Bank Foundation • U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development • Wintrust • Woods Fund Chicago • Zillow

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 newsletters webpage »](#)

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
67 E. Madison St.
Ste. 1603
Chicago, IL 60603
United States

312-939-6074 | communications@housingactionil.org



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