

NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the
New England Housing Network

*A Very Special One
Day Gathering with
an “All Star” Team of
National Advocates*

◀ Where We’ve Been,
Where We Are, and
Where We’re Going ▶

on Federal Housing Policy

Friday, December 4, 2015, 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Sheraton Needham Hotel, Needham, MA

Lead Agencies:

CT Connecticut Housing Coalition
MA Citizens’ Housing & Planning Association
ME Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

NH Housing Action New Hampshire
RI Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island
VT Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition



ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK:

The New England Housing Network is a coalition of affordable housing and community development organizations from the six New England states. The Network works on joint activities to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing in New England.

CONFERENCE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

- 8:45 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Welcome
- 9:30 a.m. National Advocates “In the Round” - Part One
- 10:30 a.m. Structured Networking Break
- 10:45 a.m. National Advocates “In the Round” - Part Two
- 11:30 a.m. Structured Networking Break
- 11:45 a.m. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: Implications for New England
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch and Presentations
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops
- 2:45 p.m. Office Hours with the National Advocates

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Twenty years ago, the New England Housing Network was started to confront a threat to federal funding for affordable housing and community development programs. Our “all star” team of national housing advocates will reflect on what has happened over the last two decades, and what we can do to shape policy and funding going forward. The format will provide lots of opportunity to interact with the advocates and other conference attendees, learn more about key areas for change through in-depth workshops, and help chart a course for future actions of the New England Housing Network.

Join housing advocates, developers, housing authorities, government officials, tenants, lenders, service providers, attorneys, and many others involved in the creation, management, and preservation of affordable housing from all six New England states for a one-day conference dealing with issues critical to our region. Conference participants will hear the latest information from national and local experts, and share innovative ideas on affordable housing and community development initiatives.

Our day will include plenary sessions featuring an overview of federal budget and legislative concerns, and the impact of recent developments in fair housing; the choice of a specialized workshop; and the opportunity to engage with advocates across our six state region.

MORNING SESSIONS

9:15 a.m. --
9:30 a.m.

WELCOME

*Jeanne Pinado, Chief Executive Officer, Madison Park Development Corporation
President, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)*

9:30 a.m. --
10:30 a.m.

NATIONAL ADVOCATES “IN THE ROUND” - PART ONE

The New England Housing Network interacts with many national advocates to develop its strategy throughout the year. For the Network's 20th anniversary, we are gathering our national partners to give us an historical perspective on what has happened in affordable housing and community development over the past two decades, and what we must do to ensure that there is a strong voice on behalf of these issues going into the future.

Introduction: *Cindy Rowe, Director, New England Housing Network*

Speakers:

Sheila Crowley, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition

Nan Roman, President and CEO, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Moderator: *LeeAnn Byrne, Policy Coordinator, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless*

Speakers:

John Bohm, Senior Director, Congressional Relations, Public Affairs and Field Operations, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)

Barbara Sard, Vice President for Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Moderator: *Erhard Mahnke, Coordinator, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition*

Speakers:

Jeff Mosley, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Housing Assistance Council (HAC)

Frank Woodruff, Executive Director, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)

Moderator: *Jude Carroll, Community Development Specialist, Connecticut Housing Coalition*

10:30 a.m. --
10:45 a.m.

STRUCTURED NETWORK BREAK ONE

This is your opportunity to reflect with others about what you just heard, and generate questions which the national allies will answer during the “office hours” segment later in the afternoon.

MORNING SESSIONS

10:45 a.m. -- 11:30 a.m. **NATIONAL ADVOCATES “IN THE ROUND” - PART TWO**

Speakers:

Kirsten Johnson-Obey, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, NeighborWorks America

Benson “Buzz” Roberts, President and CEO, National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL)

Moderator: *Greg Payne, Coordinator, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition*

Speakers:

Dr. Megan Sandel, Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch

Chris Estes, President and CEO, National Housing Conference

Moderator: *Elissa Margolin, Director, Housing Action NH*

11:30 a.m. -- 11:45 a.m. **STRUCTURED NETWORK BREAK TWO**

This is your opportunity to reflect with others about what you just heard, and generate questions which the national allies will answer during the “office hours” segment later in the afternoon.

11:45 a.m. -- 12:45 p.m. **DISPARATE IMPACT AND AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING: IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW ENGLAND**

Over the last few months, both the U.S. Supreme Court and HUD took significant steps in the area of fair housing. What will be the impact of the Court’s disparate impact ruling, which affirms that the Fair Housing Act protects against facially neutral policies that have discriminatory impacts? What are the implications of HUD’s recently announced final rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing? Our panel of experts will share their insights on these topics and what it means for New England.

Speakers:

Andrea Ponsor, Housing Policy Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

George Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy, Legislative Initiatives, and Outreach, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Diane Yentel, Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Enterprise Community Partners

Moderator: *Brenda Clement, Executive Director, Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)*

LUNCH & AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

12:45 p.m. --
1:15 p.m.

LUNCH AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Presenter: *Brenda Clement, Executive Director, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)*

1:30 p.m. --
2:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (SELECT ONE)

HOMELESSNESS: TRENDS IN NEW ENGLAND

Speakers:

Osborne Jackson, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

John Dunne, Senior Loan Officer, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Moderator: *Cullen Ryan, Executive Director, Community Housing of Maine*

Addressing the issues of homelessness has been difficult for many of our New England states. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston has recently completed research on the latest trends in our region. Come to this session to learn about the Federal Reserve's findings, and learn from CSH about what states are doing to address the homelessness issue.

HEALTH AND HOUSING

Speakers:

Dr. Megan Sandel, Principal Investigator, Children's HealthWatch

Elissa Margolin, Director, Housing Action New Hampshire

Betsy Rosenfeld, Regional Health Administrator, Region I (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)

Moderator: *Cindy Rowe, Director, New England Housing Network*

The Affordable Care Act created incentives for health care providers to make sure that patients are living in healthy environments, which would not cause them to get sick or injure themselves once released from a medical setting. Join the ongoing conversation about the connections between the affordable housing and health care sectors, and explore how our two fields can work together more effectively to meet the housing needs of patients, while providing effective health care

INCENTIVIZING HOUSING PRODUCTION

Speakers:

Lynn Peterson, Real Estate Specialist, NeighborWorks America

Rachel Heller, Director of Public Policy, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association

Amy Rainone, Director of Government Relations and Policy, Rhode Island Housing

Moderator: *Greg Payne, Coordinator, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition*

As housing costs rise in many areas of the New England region, finding new ways to increase overall housing production is critical in order to grow local economies. Come hear from some local partners on new approaches to incentivize production, particularly for housing that is affordable to people at low and moderate incomes in our states.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (continued)

1:30 p.m. -- **RAD AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING**

2:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Greg Russ, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, Massachusetts

Stephen Vadnais, Executive Director, Pawtucket Housing Authority, Rhode Island

Jude Carroll, Community Development Specialist, Connecticut Housing Coalition

Moderator: *Jack Cooper, Executive Director, Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants*

The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) was created to help public housing authorities leverage the funding they need to address capital repairs and improvements to their inventory. Come hear from some local housing authority directors about how RAD deals have impacted their developments, and the effects on residents and local communities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND (NHTF)

Speakers:

Sheila Crowley, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition

Jim Yates, Senior Associate, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC)

Moderator: *LeeAnn Byrne, Policy Coordinator, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless*

The National Housing Trust Fund was the first new federal housing production program to be authorized in many years. After successfully advocating for funding for the NHTF, we are now about to see the first allocations come to our states. Come hear from experts about what your state needs to do to be ready to use the funds in 2016, and how to effectively target them to ELI households.

TAKING A DEEPER DIVE INTO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Speakers:

Barbara Sard, Vice President for Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Judith Liben, Senior Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Moderator: *Erhard Mahnke, Coordinator, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition*

Section 8 is the nation's largest low-income housing program, and one of its most successful. Nearly 266,000 New England households receive some form of federal Rental Assistance. Our expert panelists will drill down into the details of what the budget agreement means for Section 8; what's in the House reform bill and its prospects for passage; the latest on HUD regs affecting rental assistance; location outcomes and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Family Self-Sufficiency; and strategies for using vouchers in tight rental markets.

OFFICE HOURS

2:45 p.m. -- **“OFFICE HOURS” WITH THE NATIONAL ADVOCATES**
3:30 p.m.

The national advocates will start off with some introductory remarks, and will answer the questions you posed during the structured networking breaks. This is also your time to ask our national experts anything you want to know about their areas of expertise in housing and community development.

Speakers:

Sheila Crowley, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition

Nan Roman, President and CEO, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Moderator: *LeeAnn Byrne, Policy Coordinator, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless*

Speakers:

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Diane Yentel, Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Enterprise Community Partners

Moderator: *Polly Nichol, Housing Programs Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board*

EVENT SPONSORS

SILVER LEVEL:



BRONZE LEVEL:



HOTEL DIRECTIONS

Directions to the Sheraton Needham Hotel, (800) 325-3535
100 Cabot Street, Needham, MA 02494

There is a special conference rate for overnight rooms for hotel guests of \$169.00 per night. To access this rate, please use this link: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/CHAPA2015> or call 1-800-325-3535. The group rate is available until November 12, 2015.

FROM WEST

Follow the Massachusetts Turnpike East (Interstate 90 East) to I-95/Route 128 South. Travel south on I-95/Route 128 until you come to Exit 19A. Turn right at the first set of lights. Drive 200 yards and turn right before the blue and white Sheraton sign.

FROM SOUTH

Follow I-95/Route 128 North to Exit 19A. Turn right at the first set of lights. Drive 200 yards and turn right before the blue and white Sheraton sign.

FROM BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Follow the Massachusetts Turnpike West (Interstate 90 West) to Interstate 95/Route 128 South to Exit 19A. Turn right at first light onto 2nd Avenue. Drive 200 yards and turn right before the blue and white Sheraton sign.

FROM NORTH

Follow Interstate 95/Route 128 South to Exit 19A. Turn right at the first set of lights. Drive 200 yards and turn right before the blue and white Sheraton sign.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

We encourage you to register online at:

<http://www.chapa.org/event/NEHNConference2015>

If registering by mail, please photocopy and send a separate registration form for each person attending.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I will attend the following afternoon workshop:

☐ Enclosed is my conference registration fee of \$85.00.

Please make check(s) payable to:

CHAPA, 18 Tremont Street, Suite 401, Boston, MA 02108

Credit cards are also accepted. Type of Credit Card (check one):

____ MasterCard ____ Visa ____ American Express

Credit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____



**Registration
Deadline:**
Tuesday, Dec. 1,
2015

Conference fee:
\$85.00

For more
information,
contact CHAPA at:
Tel: 617-742-0820
Fax: 617-742-3953

PLEASE NOTE:
No refunds will be
granted to anyone
who registers,
but fails to attend
the conference or
who cancels after
December 1, 2015.