NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

Conference presentations and materials are available on our website:
http://www.chapa.org/NEHN2015ConfMaterials

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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.

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.
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.

10:45 a.m. -- 11:30 a.m.  **National Advocates “In the Round” - Part Two**

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

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

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

*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 Networking Break Two**

This is your opportunity to reflect again 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.

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

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

12:45 p.m. -- 1:15 p.m.  **Lunch and Special Presentations:**

Presentations to:

*Sheila Crowley*, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition

*Betsy Crum*, Executive Director, Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development

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

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  SELECT ONE OF SIX WORKSHOPS LISTED BELOW

HOMELESSNESS: TRENDS IN NEW ENGLAND  Norfolk Room, 2nd Floor
Moderator: Cullen Ryan, Executive Director, Community Housing of Maine
Osborne Jackson, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
John Dunne, Senior Loan Officer, Corporation for Supportive Housing
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  Barnstable Room, 2nd Floor
Moderator: Cindy Rowe, Director, New England Housing Network
Elissa Margolin, Director, Housing Action, New Hampshire
Betsy Rosenfeld, Regional Health Administrator, Region One (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
Dr. Megan Sandel, Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch
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  Dining Suite, Lower Level
Moderator: Greg Payne, Coordinator, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition
Rachel Heller, Director of Public Policy, Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association
Lynn Peterson, Real Estate Specialist, NeighborWorks America
Amy Rainone, Director of Government Relations and Policy, Rhode Island Housing
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.

RAD AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING  Conference Room A/B, Lower Level
Moderator: Jack Cooper, Executive Director, Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants
Jude Carroll, Community Development Specialist, Connecticut Housing Coalition
Greg Russ, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, Massachusetts
Stephen Vadnais, Executive Director, Pawtucket Housing Authority, Rhode Island
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  Amphitheater, Lower Level
Moderator: LeeAnn Byrne, Policy Coordinator, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
Sheila Crowley, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition
Jim Yates, Senior Associate, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC)
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  Suffolk Room, 2nd Floor
Moderator: Erhard Mahnke, Coordinator, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Judith Liben, Senior Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Barbara Sard, Vice President for Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
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.

2015 NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK CONFERENCE
WHERE WE WERE, WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE’RE GOING
OFFICE HOURS

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  “Office Hours” with the National Advocates

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.

Amphitheater, Lower Level

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

Suffolk Room, 2nd Floor

Barbara Sard, Vice President for Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
John Bohm, Senior Director, Congressional Relations, Public Affairs and Field Operations, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)

Moderator: Erhard Mahnke, Coordinator, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition

Conference Room A/B, Lower Level

Jeff Mosley, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Housing Assistance Council
Frank Woodruff, Executive Director, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Association (NACEDA)

Moderator: Jude Carroll, Community Development Specialist

Dining Suite, Lower Level

Benson “Buzz” Roberts, President and CEO, National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL)
Kirsten Johnson-Obey, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, NeighborWorks America

Moderator: Betsy Crum, Executive Director, Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development

Barnstable Room, 2nd Floor

Chris Estes, President and CEO, National Housing Conference
Dr. Megan Sandel, Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch

Moderator: Elissa Margolin, Director, Housing Action NH

Norfolk Room, 2nd Floor

Andrea Ponsor, Housing Policy Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Diane Yentel, Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Enterprise Community Partners

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